The United States Conference of Mayors

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
2009 Summer Jobs Press

2nd Compilation

Summer Jobs Positive Press

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WTVY

Youth Employment Program hires teens across the Wiregrass

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Reporter: Denise Bradberry
Email Address: denise@wtvy.com

The **stimulus package** has placed 87 under privileged youth in summer jobs at non-profit organizations throughout Coffee, Geneva and Covington counties.

The **Alabama** Career Center System placed youth from 16 to 24 years-old in non-hazardous jobs for the summer.

Wages for the summer youth employment program are paid by the stimulus package.

They can add the job to their resume and it supplements their income.

"What we hoped by this program was to provide a positive work experience, some much needed work skills or introduction to work skills in a positive **environment.** For a lot of the youth we service, this is their first job," says Anita Fulford with the Alabama Career Center System.

Program leaders are now looking to have the program again next year.

The Arizona Republic

Stimulus dollars help Valley youth in job training

Funding benefits Valley businesses

by **Jenna Davis** - Aug. 14, 2009 11:44 AM
The Arizona Republic

Until recently, 20-year-old Lindy Booth was facing a hard time. She was on the streets and then lived in a domestic-violence shelter after that.

But Booth caught a break about two months ago when she landed a paid internship at TumbleTees, a youth-operated T-shirt screen printing business.

TumbleTees is one of about 200 Valley businesses participating in a youth employment program paid in part with $3 million in stimulus dollars. About $1.3 million of that goes directly to the summer youth program; the rest supports other, year-round youth efforts.

The businesses hired about 500 youths 14 to 24 years old Valley-wide who will work through September, earning $8 an hour.

An amount of money is allotted for support services for youths such as bus passes, gift cards for work clothes and cellphones, said Tim Valencia, youth workforce development supervisor.

"We want to remove that extra stress in their life," Valencia said.

For example, the YMCA will employ 78 youths this summer and was allotted $28,000 for support services. Its total budget is $220,800.

The city will request $725,000 in the fall for the 2010 summer employment program, said Valencia.

The Summer Youth Employment Services replaced a similar program Phoenix eliminated as part of the budget cuts in March."It was perfect timing," said Valencia.

"The city had subsidized summer employment, and now we get to at least cover summer employment for the next couple of years."

The goal is to help disadvantaged youth learn about emerging careers in the local area, said Valencia, adding that the benefits of the program are twofold.

"It's going to somewhat stimulate the economy because the youth tend to go out and spend their dollars more quickly than an adult would," Valencia said.

Booth, who started her work at TumbleTees two months ago, said the program paid for her to get her GED and also will pay for her to attend nursing school.

"The unemployment rate is at an all-time high," said Booth. "The programs are around to give kids a step up."

Booth now lives with a roommate and says she enjoys her work screen printing T-shirts.

"It's by far the most artistic, creative job I've ever had," said Booth.

"It doesn't seem like work sometimes."

TerraceStandard.com

Summer youth employment service closes for the season

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The Terrace Service Canada Centre for Youth has closed for the season, with its last day of operation yesterday, August 18.

"The summer was extremely successful," said youth services officer Brittany Bingham, explaining that the centre helped many young people with job searches and to improve their office skills.

There were 136 youths that used the office this summer who used the service to look at job postings, work on their resumes and interview skills, or get information about student loans amongst other things.

Last summer, 175 youths passed through the office.

Fellow youth services officer Samantha Holley said that while office traffic was a bit slower this summer compared to last, this allowed them to get out more in the community.

"It gave us the opportunity to do a lot more outreach," Holley said, explaining they spent more time in the Nass Valley, Kitimat and events around the community promoting the service.

The centre was also a resource for businesses, with the youth services officers helping employers find youths to work.

Bingham and Holley said the grand opening, casual labour booths and the Farmers Market were successful events.

Throughout the summer, the centre posted 41 casual jobs, which covered work like helping with moving, painting, mowing lawns and housekeeping.

There were also 27 full-time positions posted, the majority of which were in the hospitality field.

The 14 part-time jobs posted were also mainly in hospitality. While some of these jobs were only for the summer, some have turned into full-time positions for the fall.

Bingham and Holley say they hope to put what they've learned this year towards another successful summer next year.

The service will be back next summer, but for now, employers and job seekers can use the regular job bank at the local Service Canada office.

Martinez News-Gazette

Stimulus money creates summer jobs for over 1000 Contra Costa youths

By Greta Mart
Staff Reporter
July 12, 2009

Several Martinez businesses are currently taking advantage of the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County's (WDBCCC) summer youth employment program.

Funded through the Obama Adminstration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the program allows each youth a salary of $8.25 an hour for about 120 hours over the next two months. The WDBCCC received roughly $2.5 million just for salaries.

Via several three-day workshop, the young workers learned "basic job preparation skills such as creating resumes, interview skills, proper business attire and conduct, employer expectations, money management skills and training," said Beth Hoerning, a spokesperson for the Workforce Development Board. "The workshops also cover job training and addresses what to expect at the worksite, quality customer services, safety, sexual harassment, telephone courtesy, financial literacy, professional attire and payroll process."

During June, over 200 county residents aged 14 to 24 completed basic job skills training and were placed in paid positions this week.

Hoerning explained, "employment placement was determined by interest and aptitude assessment. A diverse mixture of industries such as construction, green jobs, healthcare, community outreach and local government will employ a large portion of the youth. Private businesses, county departments and community organizations will mentor youth along with career counselors from the Workforce Development Board."

The county's Elections Division is among the local businesses taking in the young workers. Since the Division is busy preparing for a Sept. 1 special election—for the 10th Congressional District—the workers will be a much-needed addition to staff in assembling precinct supplies and other behind-the-scenes activities.

"We welcomed the opportunity, and one girl started [Thursday], and she scanned in documents for archiving. At the end of the day she said she was surprised how much work goes into elections. She said the job was so much better than Jamba Juice!" said Erin

Mendez of the Election Division. "We're hoping to get 10 participants. I hope it will spark their interest in the overall election process."

The Contra Costa County Local Information Commission, Administrators Office, Clerk of the Board, Clerk-Recorder, Coroner, Director Marketing, Human Resources, Senior Center and Personnel Divisions in Martinez are all involved in the program. Other participants include Baja Construction, the City of Martinez, Helix Electric, Labor Council, Martinez Construction, Martinez Unified School District and the Martinez Early Childhood Center.

"Summer is a critical time for youth to start their work regime. Unfortunately the current economic condition has drastically affected this opportunity for our youth. The ARRA funds have provided a way to counteract the employment deficiency while providing a foundation for an economic upsurge," said WDBCCC Executive Director Bob Lanter.

The Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County is a 37-member business-led public body appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for developing workforce development policy in the county. Its mission is to promote a workforce development system that responds to the needs of the business community, job seekers, workers and youth, said Hoerning.

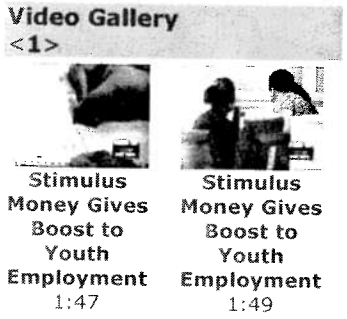
Posted: 20 Jul 2009 04:31 AM PDT

KIONrightnow.com - Monterey,CA,USA

Stimulus Money Gives Boost to Youth Employment

Posted: July 17, 2009 09:23 AM EDT

SALINAS, Calif. - While the number of those filing for unemployment benefits nationwide dropped this week, the One-Stop Career Center in Salinas is still seeing hundreds of people looking for a job.



And that includes many young people. The One-Stop Career Center says, they see upwards of 600 people a week still looking for a job. And it's been especially hard for young people, who don't have as much work experience.

Twenty-two-year-old Yesenia Acevedo is a student at Hartnell College, who's looking been looking for a job since June after she moved here from Los Angeles.

She says, it's been hard since a lot of jobs require experience in a particular field. This comes at a time, when she's in dire financial need to pay her student loans with little help from her parents.

"When I'm at school and I go out for financial aid, they don't want to help me because, I'm under the age of 25," says Acevedo. " I don't have any kids, I'm not in the military, so no one wants to give me financial aid for school. So, I'm having to pay everything out of pocket, including books and everything I need for school, at the same time my parents aren't exactly helping me either."

Now she's working on fine-tuning her resume and she's focusing her efforts on trying to get a job possibly in finance or banking.

The One-Stop Career Center offers a program to give a boost to young people like Yesenia. It's the summer youth employment program and they just received more stimulus money.

The program goes on for eight weeks and provides work readiness skills for those ages 14 to 24. Out of 3,000 applicants, the program accepted roughly 550 young people who have little to no work history.

They work in all areas of the work force from hospitality to agriculture in the community. The program's been going on since mid June and gives young people experience, exposure and not to mention money in their pocket.

"Locally, in Monterey County, there are things happening," says Program Manager Rod Powell. "There are meaningful services going out to young people, young adults that would make them more prepared for employment and more employment means more money. It means an upsurge in the economy."

While jobs are limited, he says, these work skills are invaluable and in some cases, they can lead to full-time jobs with the companies they work for.

The summer program ends on Aug. 7. They do accept applications for it year-round and since they received more money this year, they're looking into planning a similar program in the fall for those who weren't accepted in the summertime.

Video: http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=10743363&nav=menu1591_2

The Oakland Tribune

Young adults spend summer cleaning up East Oakland

By Katherine Jarvis
Oakland Tribune
Posted: 08/14/2009 04:30:47 PM PDT
Updated: 08/14/2009 10:47:33 PM PDT

Jesse Jackson didn't realize that he wanted to work as an environmental engineering technician until he took part in the mayor's Summer Jobs program during July and August.

"This has been a life-changing experience for me," Jackson said.

He was able to network with people through the program and discovered his interest in environmental engineering. Through the program, Councilmember Desley Brooks (Eastmont-Seminary) hired Jackson, 25, and six other young adults from East Oakland to clean District 6.

They offered unsolicited yard work to area residents, did median cleanups and maintenance, did creek cleaning and offered assistance around Arroyo Viejo Park.

"We look for the big things to be great, and it's often the simple things that make a difference," Brooks said.

People have appreciated what the participants have done; some drivers would honk in approval when they saw them working along medians.

Demeshia Jones, 20, said it has been good to give back to the community.

Zia Bengal, 19, is supervisor of the crew, a group that works well together walking from place to place, picking up trash along the way. He said the work they do through the program gives hope to community youth. It shows that they can get jobs and be productive during the summer.

"If it weren't for this job, we'd be sent back into the jungle," said Anthony Shaw, 20.

The program, which ended Friday, gave the young adults a "sense of purpose," Jackson said. Six out of the seven adults will be going to college somewhere in the Bay Area this fall and will be trying to get additional work.

Bengal will be returning to Atlanta to work after living in Oakland for more than a year and working at the YMCA. He also plans to start a landscaping business with a friend when he returns to Atlanta.

Although he has been doing yard work for money for years, Bengal said this summer's job gives him more experience. "Everything you work hard for, you keep longer," he said.

Patterson Irrigator

Summer jobs sponsored by stimulus

by Maddy Houk | Patterson Irrigator

Aug 20, 2009 | 286 views | 1 | 2 | |

Brittany Garcia, working with sunflowers at Blue Floral Company, is one of many local youth who found jobs through the Patterson Summer Youth Employment Program. Maddy Houk/Patterson Irrigator

Brittany Garcia has been caring for the plants and flowers at Blue Floral Company all summer long.

Even with school in session, Brittany waits on customers behind the counter at the local business during the afternoon.

Brittany, 15, is part of Patterson's Summer Youth Employment Program, which enables 40 locals between the ages of 14 and 24 find paid work at local businesses.

"She's learning the types of flowers and plants," Blue Floral Company owner Leticia Lopez said. "Brittany is pleasant to have around — always friendly, cheerful, talkative — typical teen, always has a story to tell."

Brittany helps with the daily routine of cleaning the flowers, cutting the stems and handling the

fragile flowers such as gardenias and orchids.

"It's really neat dealing with flowers," Brittany said. "I'm learning about flowers and how to care for them."

Meanwhile, Crystal Gonsalves and Maria Galvin worked with Nina Gregoris of Farmers Insurance, helping in the office.

George Galloway MacMaster, president of the of the Patterson-Westley Chamber of Commerce, who is in the same building as Gregoris, said Gonsalves' and Galvin's computer knowledge benefited the chamber as well.

"They designed the Patterson-Westley Chamber of Commerce yellow pages Web site, and they updated the chamber membership list," MacMaster said. "They invigorated the chamber with their work and work ethic. You didn't need to stand over their shoulder the whole time. They came back, then they were finished and said, 'I did it.'"

The teens work under the county's Stanislaus Youth@Work Program, funded by the federal stimulus package. The program is implemented locally through a partnership between the city of Patterson and the Center for Human Services, and it is run by local teen center staff.

Wages are paid through Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet's $3.89 million initiative. More than 900 youth in the county are participating.

Eddie Nuno and Erica Ayala, program specialists at the Patterson Teen Center, placed youth in businesses around town, including Stanislaus County's Patterson Child Development Center, El Sol Market, Blue Floral Company, Patterson Irrigator, Reflections, Dollar Tree, Pizza Plus, Quiznos, Brisa De Michoacan and Barbosa Video Services.

Nuno and Ayala spoke at local service club meetings and visited businesses personally before placing the youth in their positions.

"We talk to them and see what they like and place them according to their interests," Nuno said. "We try to place them with their skills in something that they would use for the future endeavors."

Nuno and Ayala first gave an orientation to the teens, discussing topics such as a dress code, work ethic and customer service skills. They continue to meet with the participants regularly to make sure things are going smoothly and to answer questions that arise. In addition, each employer gives a bi-weekly evaluation of their teen worker or workers to make sure things are on track.

The first paychecks were in the mail by Aug. 1.

"That's just perfect," Ayala said. "They received the checks right before they started school."

The Press-Enterprise *PE.com*

Federal dollars turning into youth jobs

02:34 PM PDT on Monday, August 17, 2009

By ERICA SHEN
The Press-Enterprise

The city of Perris is preparing young adults for full-time employment through an internship program.

About 25 high school- and college-aged residents have been trimming trees, installing dry wall, updating computer programs and reviewing building plans this summer.

Eric Lee, 16, who is going to be a junior at Rancho Verde High School in Perris, said his experience at the city's Information Technology Department will help him achieve his goal of working in computer animation.

Special to The Press-Enterprise
An intern with the city of Perris, Rafael Quevedo, 16, of Perris, tosses a damaged stop sign into a recycling pile. Quevedo works with the Public Works Department.

His duties included updating Internet servers, as well as shooting and editing videos for the city's website.

"I've learned a lot," Eric said of his first job. "People here have taught me things I didn't know how to do before."

Aside from computer expertise, Eric said applying for the job also taught him resume-writing and interviewing skills.

Eric's supervisor, Edgar Trenado, information technology specialist at the city, said the interns are being treated like other full-time city employees.

"Eric has done everything from day-to-day tasks to some of the bigger projects we have here," he said.

Funding from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Oasis Youth Opportunity Center in Perris is one of the agencies that received funding through Riverside County for the period of June 1 to Oct. 31. Oasis partnered up with the city of Perris to provide work opportunities for young adults between the ages of 14 and 24. The interns can work a maximum of 200 hours in the program.

Adilen Santana, 18, of Perris, works at the Senior Citizens Center. She answers phones, greets seniors and helps with Spanish-English translations. Santana said the job has given some structure to her life.

"It teaches me how to be professional and gets me thinking about other jobs in the future," she said.

Reach Erica Shen at 951-763-3466, or eshen@PE.com

Posted: 23 Jul 2009 04:46 AM PDT

San Jose Mercury News - CA, USA

Sacramento district hires teenagers for tech work

The Associated Press
Posted: 07/22/2009 01:00:20 PM PDT

MCCLELLEN, Calif.—The Twin Rivers Unified School District is saving money by hiring high school interns to help solve their computer troubles this summer.

Several high school students are earning $8 an hour helping to get the computers at a technology-focused junior high in shape before the new school year. The Sacramento Employment and Training Agency sponsored the internships.

Officials say the interns are gaining work experience and the district is getting the job done faster and for a steep discount.

The idea grew out of a pilot program at Foothill High School, which last spring started a student-run IT help desk called MOUSE Squad that offers the district computer support while training students.

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Information from: The Sacramento Bee, http://www.sacbee.com

Victor Maccharoli- Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal and Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board Raymond McDonald announced Youth Corps as a new program for out-of-school youth Wednesday at the courthouse. $1.1 million was awarded for the creation of the countywide program.

Work program to find jobs for teens

Cast as the modern version of the civilian work corps established during the Great Depression, a new program dubbed the Youth Corps announced yesterday is expected to provide job opportunities for at least 125 "at-risk" youth across Santa Barbara County beginning this fall.

Community leaders hailed the $1.1-million, two-year venture as a way to keep local teens busy and actively contributing to the community.

"As a retired police officer, I can tell you if we don't keep our children busy, they'll find other things to do," said Goleta Mayor Roger Aceves, who is partnering with other city and county leaders to support the program. "I'd rather have them working and defining a career."

Participants in the Youth Corps will go through an orientation session before being grouped into teams, trained in teamwork and vocational skills, and assigned public service tasks.

Ray McDonald, executive director of the county's Workforce Investment Board, which received the federal funding for the program, said possible jobs for participating teens could include cleaning up, repairing and restoring public lands and assets damaged during the recent wildfires.

"The Youth Corps is really perfect for that," he said, adding that those involved might also be given jobs in local parks to supplement work done by public employees.

In addition, McDonald expects the corps to bid on work contracts offered by various local municipalities as the program expands.

"It prepares these kids for longer-term jobs in the building and construction trades," he said, adding that a large percentage of workers in those industries are expected to retire in the next decade.

Those eligible for the Youth Corps will be between 14 and 21 years of age. McDonald said they must be facing some sort of barrier, such as economic disadvantages, to meet federal guidelines, but added that many teens are expected to qualify.

He sees the work corps as an evolution of prior youth jobs programs that the Workforce Investment Board and other local groups have created in the past. While teens were provided with some job training and experience through those efforts, McDonald said organizers had yet to approach the concept holistically.

"This brings it all together," he said, emphasizing the constant reinforcement of concepts such as teamwork and responsibility that will be a major part of the program.

Sue Larson, vice chair of the workforce board, said studies show that for every dollar invested in similar youth work corps across the country, the community receives $1.60 worth of tangible work. She noted that similar efforts have proved successful during the 1930s and in the 1970s.

"I know it will work here in Santa Barbara County," Larson said.

Organizers also plan to partner with Santa Barbara City College and Allan Hancock College to combine educational activities with community service projects.

The Community Action Commission, a countywide nonprofit social service agency, will be in charge of heading up the Youth Corps, and leaders presented the organization with the standard ceremonial, oversized check for $1.1 million.

Despite the common misconception that federal stimulus funds are backing the program, organizers said the money came from the Workforce Investment Act. The program is expected to officially launch in October and more information about getting involved is available by calling 681-4431.

County Supervisor Salud Carbajal, who described how city and county leaders came together a year ago to discuss ways to beef up youth jobs programs, talked about his own personal experience in the arena.

"I grew up in a very challenging environment not too far from here called La Colonia in Oxnard," he said, adding that employment opportunities helped him during those tough times.

"It provides us with self-esteem," Carbajal said. "It provides us with that worth we are all searching for."

And while some might label the youth who will take part in the program as "at-risk," the supervisor phrased it another way.

"They are children reaching out for a better opportunity," he said, "and I think this will give them those opportunities."

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Federal stimulus package opens up doors for low-income youth with the Summer Youth Employment Program

By Mahdi Nuru
Posted: 08/04/2009 01:30:02 AM PDT

Santa Cruz -- The Santa Cruz County Office of Education was given a $1.3 million federal stimulus package from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act on April 1 to create employment for low-income youth.

In collaboration with the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education has launched a Summer Youth Employment Program, which began June 29 and runs through Aug. 7.

Program organizers are trying to reach 300 youth for employment. The program currently serves 170 youths while the paperwork for 101 more are pending.

The entire $1.3 million will not be allocated for the Summer Program, nor is it expected to be used by the end of the year. This summer, $500,000 has been allocated.

The Office of Education in cooperation with CAB hope to budget spending for new programs to be launched next year, according to Jo Ann Allen, manager of Student Support Services at the County Office of Education.

One job-creation program will begin in September and last through the year. The Summer Program will also be repeated.

In addition to creating jobs, the five-week SYEP has created community work for youth who are making major improvements for the environment with fire safety, flood protections and facility improvements.

Eligible youth candidates are aged 14-24 and must fall in a low-income bracket, as well as other income-related criteria.

"We're thrilled to be part of an initiative like this,"

says Christine Johnson-Lyons, CAB Executive Director. Youth are put in a real job situation with real job expectations, she adds.

SYEP finds employers willing to provide valuable training for the youth. The employers will not just use them for free labor; rather, they will accept the obligation of teaching the youth basic skills and serving as a mentor, according to Allen.

"This is not just a summer job. We're going to give you more than a job," Allen says. "The summer training is designed to help kids understand how to write a resume, prepare for an interview, customer service, how to job search... many people haven't thought about that yet."

Allen's focus is to target kids who grew up in the foster system and kids under probation. She hopes for the SYEP to better their lives and for it to be used as a transition to future employment opportunities.

"We make sure the job is meaningful and with purpose for a future goal," she says.

Although the SYEP is only a five-week program, the hope is for the program to prepare young people for future employment challenges. By the end of the program, participants will receive a "work readiness skill" certificate.

"They learn constructive things to do in the community and learn tremendous on-the-job training," says Benjamin Alamillo, CAB crew supervisor. "And it's good to see them with a sense of confidence."

DAILY PRESS
VVDailyPress.com

May 4, 2009

Federal stimulus to fund summer jobs for youth

Program costs more than $4,000 per young worker

NATASHA LINDSTROM Staff Writer

The county Workforce Investment Board will be paying summer job wages for hundreds of low-income teens and young adults through a new federally funded program.

By spending about $7 million on roughly 1,600 summer jobs countywide, the program costs taxpayers more than $4,000 per participant — an expense which has caused concern for some taxpayer advocates.

"You have to wonder, if policy makers would concentrate on solutions that might really work to get the economy going, there might be sufficient private sector openings, rather than having to rely on government," said Pete Sepp, spokesman for the National Taxpayers Union. "Ironically, the young kids who will be hired in this program will simply pay the bill for it later in higher taxes of their own."

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors accepted the $7 million in federal stimulus monies last week to fund the Summer Youth Employment Program, which is being rolled out in cities and counties nationwide from May through September.

In the High Desert, about $1 million to $2 million will be spent on 300 to 500 jobs.

The taxpayer price tag may be hefty, but the idea is young workers will pump that money right back into the economy, said Janice Lindsay, deputy director of administrative services for the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department.

"In this economy, that basically boils down to youth going out and spending that money... and in some cases it's critical to the survival of their family during tough times," Lindsay said.

Sepp would favor a program jointly funded by the private sector, and he's skeptical of the notion that the wages will funnel right back into the local economy.

"Merely putting federal cash in somebody's pocket does not mean they'll take it back out of the pocket and plop it down at a local store somewhere," Sepp said.

In addition to helping disadvantaged youth land summer jobs, the program aims to make young workers more employable by teaching them basic job

skills and appropriate workplace behavior, Lindsay said.

Participants will get supplemental work readiness training, which will review basic practices such as filling out time cards and crafting resumes, and will also cover topics like workplace ethics, time management, productivity and employer expectations.

The App le Valley and Hesperia school districts, the Lucerne Valley Career Academy and Goodwill Industries are among the providers placing students in High Desert jobs.

Some local employers include Kinari restaurant, America's Tire Co., Quantum Office Products, the Hesperia Recreation & Park District and the Hesperia Unified School District, according to Werner von der Heide, director of the summer employment program for HUSD.

"A lot of employers want students who are prepared to work, and so through this program we're able to coach and work with these kids ... so they learn how to be good employees," von der Heide said.

The summer employment program is funded from part of a $15.8 million award from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The leftover $8 million will be spent on services and training for adults and laid-off workers in the county.

THE BUSINESS PRESS
www.thebizpress.c May 18, 2009 Inland Southern California's Business Newspaper VOL. 15 NO. 20

WORKFORCE

Stimulus funds used for local job training, programs

Guest Editorial

Sandy Harmsen

During March, the unemployment rate in San Bernardino County continued its upward trend, landing at 12.5 percent, according to the Employment Development Department. Sadly, this is nearly double the unemployment rate of just one year ago, 6.7 percent. With so many people looking for work, the release of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) comes at a crucial time.

ARRA funds are being distributed by the federal government to local work force investment boards across the nation to be used locally to create and save jobs. The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County received $15 million from ARRA, of which $7 million was earmarked for youth work-readiness programs. The rest of the funding will be used to train and support job seekers and help sustain the businesses that employ the county's residents.

Nothing is more important to a business's competitive edge than having well-trained and highly skilled employees. If a company needs improvement in this area, ARRA dollars through the Workforce Investment Board can pay for a portion of the training to upgrade the skills of new or existing employees. Training programs can be designed to fit specific company needs.

For example, if a business requires a new software program to be more efficient, the Workforce Investment Board can use ARRA funding to hire a trainer. If a class is needed to help employees build specific job skills, the Workforce Investment Board can fund their tuition. It can also fund and coordinate the development of a new class if specialized training is required.

These customized training programs are designed to make companies more competitive in their market and sharpen the skills of our county's work force. A highly skilled work force makes our county a more attractive location for employers, and more business translates into more jobs for our residents.

The Workforce Investment Board can also use ARRA funding for on-the-job training of new employees, where the board pays up to half of their compensation for an established time period. Employees are trained on the job to become fully contributing staff members. This creates opportunities for residents to enter new fields and alleviates some of the labor costs for businesses that need trained employees.

ARRA funding is also being used by the Workforce Investment Board to help prevent layoffs by bringing resources to local businesses that reduce costs, increase sales or help them find funding. It is also developing a series of workshops to help the county's large employers operate more efficiently utilizing the "lean" process.

Nearly half of the Workforce Investment Board's ARRA funding is being used to launch a summer youth employment-readiness program, which will place 1,560 of the county's young people in jobs at local organizations and pay 100 percent of their wages. The program will teach these youth work-readiness skills and help them earn a little spending money this summer when jobs are scarce.

Youth participants have to meet qualifications including being low-income county residents between the ages of 14 and 24 and facing obstacles to employment. They also have to be motivated and ready to learn.

Through this program, businesses receive a little extra help, and our youth build skills that will make them productive members of our future work force.

A variety of employers, including city and county offices, private companies, and community-based organizations, were selected to participate in the program based on their ability to provide valuable work sites where youth can learn.

Some businesses are already taking advantage of this opportunity. For example, Ricno Technologies Inc., a Rancho Cucamonga-based manufacturer of aerospace and industrial machine parts, is offering three intern positions. Being involved with the program will allow the company to provide extra support to its staff with no out-of-pocket expenses and get an opportunity to make an impact on the lives of a few young people.

We have all been affected by this recession and county staff is doing all that it can to help businesses and residents endure this challenging economy.

Those interested in finding out more about the Workforce Investment Board's programs and workshops can call 1-800-451-JOBS.

Sandy Harmsen is the executive director for the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County.

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE
INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S NEWSPAPER

May 31, 2009

Search is on for summer jobs

By JACK KATZANEK

The summer job market for teens in San Bernardino and Riverside counties would be much worse this year if thousands had not gotten employment help from their favorite uncle -- Sam.

President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan included enough money to keep as many as 4,000 people in Inland Southern California between the ages of 14 and 24 doing something positive this summer, specifically earning some spending money and helping their cash-strapped families.

The stimulus help comes during a year when young people, who usually look for summer jobs at fast-food restaurants, miniature-golf courses and mall retailers, are likely to be competing with people their parents or older siblings' ages. More than 225,000 people were listed as unemployed in April in the Inland area, according to the state.

Riverside County is about to launch a program that will allow 2,500 young people to work up to 240 hours between May and September at county offices and nonprofit agencies. They will be paid by a grant of about $9.3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

San Bernardino County is expecting about $7 million from President Obama's stimulus package to pay the wages of some 1,600 young workers. The funding was allocated based on unemployment rates, which in April was 12.8 percent in Riverside County and 12.4 percent in San Bernardino County.

Tom Freeman, spokesman for Riverside County's Economic Development Agency, said this could help push down the county's unemployment rate.

"But right now a lot of kids are competing with adults" for jobs, Freeman said.

A key difference in San Bernardino County is a program structured to allow people to work in the private sector. Janice Lindsay, deputy director for the county's Department of Workforce Development, said some students have already started working, although most must wait until school ends for the year.

The response was so strong that students who contact the county now will be placed on a waiting list, Lindsay said. There is the possibility the county can receive supplemental money, she added.

"Obviously we couldn't serve all the youths, but we're pleased with the ones we were able to serve," Lindsay said.

Judy Malnar, career counselor at A.B. Miller High School in Fontana, said she made sure her students knew the federal program was where the jobs were.

"There were some jobs open at Ontario Mills, but only about four or five," Malnar said. "It's not a real great situation this year."

Scandia, an Ontario amusement park, advertised for workers in April because the park usually hosts end-of-year school parties in May. Scott Larson, the general manager, said 1,000 people answered the hiring call, but he hired only 24.

Scandia will have one more round of hiring, in the middle of June, but Larson said he expects to hire only about half as many people as he would for a typical summer crew.

"We always hire, even if it's going to be half as busy as the year before. It's still busier than winter," Larson said. "But it will be a lot less because business is way, way down."

Larson said there were unexpected benefits to the weak economy. With so many applicants, he said he was able to hire selectively in April and came away with a stronger group of workers. Also, there was virtually no turnover, which is unusual for entry-level jobs at an amusement park.

"Usually we have guys quit on us all the time," Larson said.

Hiring at Castle Amusement Park in Riverside is expected to be bumped up through a series of job fairs held on Monday afternoons between now and the middle of June, said Jeff Moody, general manager. Usually between 100 and 150 positions are added for summer, Moody said.

"We should be hiring close to what we hired last year," Moody said. "I'm hoping the economy doesn't hurt us that much. So far we haven't seen much of a dip.

Reach Jack Katzanek at 951 368-9553 or at jkatzanek@PE.com

To learn morE:

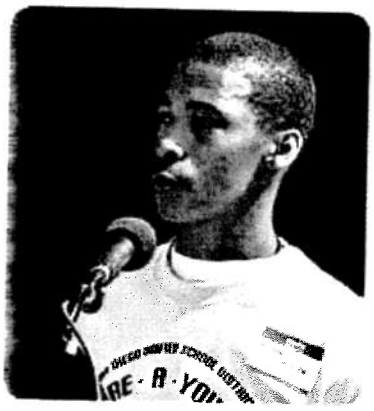
In Riverside County: **951 955-6615**

In San Bernardino County: **800-451-5627 (451-JOBS)**

San Diego Unified School District E-News
From **Superintendent Terry B. Grier**

July 31, 2009

Hire-A-Youth Celebrates Success



The 2009 Hire-A-Youth Summer Internship program was successful in placing more than 600 students in paid summer jobs. The $1.5 million dollar program was funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the San Diego Workforce Partnership. A celebration marking the end of the program was held this morning on board the USS Midway Museum. More than 700 students, employers and supporters listened as San Diego High student Michael Gaulden shared his award-winning essay on how the program dramatically impacted his family's life. Read Michael's essay. For more information, please visit the Career, College and Technical Education (CCTE) website.

llarson's blog

Hire-a-Youth Event on the Midway!

Fri, 07/31/2009 - 13:24 — llarson

Students Touring the Midway The End of Program event for the Hire-a-Youth program this summer was a great success. Over 600 students and 118 business members and parents were present on the USS Midway Museum for breakfast, event, and a tour of the ship.

In order of speaking, Rear Admiral John P. McLaughlin (US Naval Reserve), Phil Blair (Manpower), Sheila Jackson (SDUSD Board President), Dr. Terry Grier (SDUSD Superintendent), Mark Cafferty (Workforce Partnership), and Virginia Eves (SDUSD CCTE) spoke to the students regarding the Hire-a-Youth experience this summer.

Highlighting the event were the essay grand prize winners: Michael Gauldin and Rocio Morales. Michael read outloud his essay to a captivated audience. Read his essay.

Leatherneck Interns

Mon, 07/20/2009 - 12:09 — llarson

Letter from one of the case managers:

When I first saw the name of one of the sites that I would be visiting as a case manager, I had no idea what to expect.

Upon my arrival to the site, I found two wonderful men who took me by the hand and showed me the amazing site that 4 of my students at Madison get to work at. These two men were Steve Smith, who goes by "smitty" and is retired Navy, and Leon Simon a retired Marine. First off, a Navy man and a Marine working side-by-side made me nervous, but they have an amazing relationship that I have now seen tumble over to our students. (There is also a third man, George Welsh, whom I met the next day)

Hire-A-Youth Program and Energy/Utility Management: a WIN-WIN!

Fri, 07/17/2009 - 13:42 — llarson

Many district sites and district students are taking advantage of the Hire-A-Youth Program. This program, funded by stimulus money, provides paid internships for district students. This program provides them with meaningful work experience and the opportunity to learn necessary skills to succeed in the workplace. The Energy/Utility Management Section at Physical Plant Operations (PPO) is proud to be working with three students from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at Madison High School. These interns are conducting irrigation condition reports at various sites throughout the district. These reports will be used by the landscape staff and zone managers to correct any irrigation issues (broken sprinklers, excessive runoff, etc.) ensuring that water is applied as efficiently as possible. In these times of budgetary challenges and water shortages, enabling our interns to help us save water and assist staff to accomplish their goals, it's a win-win! For additional infor

Hire-A-Youth Interns Are the Difference We Wish to See in This World

Fri, 07/17/2009 - 13:37 — llarson

Hire-A-Youth interns at the Office of College, Career and Technical Education have proven themselves knowledgeable, capable and industrious! Five of our interns working in our department are from Morse, Madison, Crawford Multimedia and Visual Arts High Schools and one attends San Diego State University. They have proven themselves invaluable in our office and at several school sites in myriad ways--filming and editing documentaries, producing promotional videos, setting up new computer labs, performing maintenance on servers and excelling at even the most mundane office tasks, such as purging 2008-09 files and creating new 2009-10 files. Many thanks and acknowledgment to Abukar, Patrick, Dustin, Krissi, Long, and Anthony!

Michael Gaulden

Case Manager Tara Anderson

San Diego High School

Hire-A-Youth

It makes a difference

To some students, Hire-A-Youth is just another summer job. To some students, it is all about trying something different. To other students, it is all about making money to buy new clothes, the latest cell phones, gadgets and gizmos. To me, the Hire-A-Youth program is the relief to my family's pain. This program has helped change my life. It has drastically changed my circumstances.

Without Hire-a-youth, I wouldn't have a job. There use to be a fine line that separated adult jobs from youth jobs; but over the last few years that line has dwindled and perished. It feels as if finding a job is equivalent to finding a needle in a haystack. Everyone, from fifty year olds to fifteen year olds, is fighting for that one little McDonald job because what may seem like an insignificant McDonald job can mean the difference between your family eating and starving.

In this current economy, people have lost numerous things. Some have lost cars, savings, and many have lost their homes. But I've never really had a home to lose. I hear a lot of people saying "I have no where to go," but that's absurd. Many can simply just go over a relative's house or a friend's. Maybe even a teen shelter or a family shelter, but that's still somewhere to go. They might not be wiling to go there, but they still have somewhere to be. But when I say, with a quiver in my voice, that my mother, sister, and I had no place to go, that is exactly what I

mean. Think about this for a minute, where would you go when your grandmother closed the door on you, laughed, and then said that being homeless is what you get? Where could you go when homeless organizations claim to place you in a motel for a month, and without even notifying your family, run out of funds your first week there? When you come to them with your face drenched in tears, and they basically tell you good luck? Where would you sleep at night when your first cousin, whose living room is where you slept, moved out on you in your sleep, and left you there? Where would you wake up when shelters toss you back into the streets when your time is up? When shelters are too full to accept you or the only way to take you would be to split up the only thing you ever had...your family? Where would you go when "friends" turn a blind eye to your struggle? Where could you go? That was my question. Where could my family go?

My mother was doing her best but couldn't possibly do it on her own; and that extra help she needed just wasn't there. What happens when a job doesn't pay enough and you need to buy food? Hunger happens. Food stamps helped, until they closed our account. This was me. This was my reality. My sister and I would eat at school and we would bring the scraps we managed to save back to our house of a car so my mother could eat. This is how it went for a long time until one day I stumbled across a piece of paper that read "The Hire-A-Youth Program." To me, that paper read hope. It meant food. It meant sleeping at a motel at night. It meant a lot more than what it actually read.

Now let us Fast-forward past the certification process and the work readiness training to when I received my first paycheck. If you were to look into my eyes on that day, you would have sworn I was Bill Gates. Two-hundred and seventy-nine dollars plus fifty-four cents was billions to me. That week I purchased food and toiletries. I bought gas for the car so my mother could get

to work, did the laundry, and purchased other necessities which allowed me the chance to step up and become the man of the family who could now be depended on.

The Hire-a-Youth program has allowed me to provide for my family, gave me more work experience and has helped change my family's residential status. Due to the generous pay rate at Hire-A-Youth, I was able to help pay the rent and deposit which allowed my family to move into our very own apartment and fill it with food. Our days of struggling with homelessness are over.

The Hire-a-Youth program helped change my life and life changing events will never be forgotten. I want to thank the entire HAY program for giving me this life changing opportunity and especially my case manager Ms. Tara Anderson for being so flexible and understanding. I deeply express my gratitude to the HAY program because it has made a tremendous difference in my life.

Daily News

Job Training Center to track teens' bonuses

Staff Report
Updated: 08/03/2009 08:50:29 AM PD

Jumpstart 09 participants Maria Castrejon and Nicole Toothman spent their... (DN- Greene)
The Job Training Center is combining a special celebration event with an awareness opportunity and inviting Tehama County businesses to join in.

On Friday, 129 young adults who participated in Jumpstart 09, a stimulus funded summer employment program, will celebrate their success. They will be treated to refreshments and a tour of the new Shasta College Tehama County Campus and will pick up their final paychecks. One hundred of them will receive a $75 incentive bonus for good performance and attendance.

Youth will be encouraged to spend their bonus money locally and it will be easy to spot because the bonus money will be in $2 bills with a special stamp that reads: Stimulus $$...Pass It On Job Training Center.

We have substantial stimulus dollars coming into this county, said Kathy Schmitz, CEO of the Job Training Center. The idea is to keep them circulating and for all of us to see how we're touched by them.

If you receive the $2 bills, please send an e-mail to awigno@ncen.org and let the Job Training Center know where the money was spent and the date it was received.

The goal for Jumpstart 09 was to use the stimulus funds to jumpstart the work skills of these young adults and infuse money into the local economy, Schmitz said. If you can, keep the money circulating in Tehama County. Feel good about keeping the Stimulus dollars at home.

Highlights of the program include 71 worksites throughout the county hosting youth over a seven-week period; 12 hours of work readiness training for youth and more than 24 youth were hired by their host employers and received ongoing training.

POST YOUR

Denver Business Journal

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Denver awards contracts in stimulus-funded jobs program

Denver Business Journal

The Denver Office of Economic Development said Tuesday it has awarded contracts to three groups to run the city's stimulus-funded summer Youth Employment Program.

The Denver Housing Authority, Goodwill Industries of Denver and Servicios de La Raza are overseeing the job placement of about 600 youths and young adults this summer.

The three contracts total $753,070, officials said.

Denver received $4.7 million under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for workforce development programs. Of that amount, $1.9 million is for youth employment and training.

"These contracts represent the first federal stimulus dollars flowing through the Denver Office of Economic Development that benefit local businesses and our community," André Pettigrew, executive director of the Denver OED, said in a statement. "The program provides an important resource for businesses to fill jobs while helping youth gain workforce knowledge, skills and abilities that will lead to rewarding, successful and sustainable employment."

The program aims to place "at risk" youths and young adults ages 14 to 24 in jobs providing up to 160 hours of summer employment at businesses, nonprofits and government organizations.

All youth positions have been filled, but there is a wait list for applicants.

For more information, call the contractor agencies: Denver Housing Authority, 303-607-9216; Goodwill Industries of Denver, 303-430-5319; or Servicios de La Raza, 303-953-5950.

denvernews@bizjournals.com

Coloradoan.com

Larimer County Workforce Center summer youth employment programs draw to a close

BY DAVID YOUNG • DAVIDYOUNG@COLORADOAN.COM • AUGUST 5, 2009

brings to an end the first year of Larimer County Workforce Center's summer youth employment programs funded, in part, by stimulus money.

This was the first year that the workforce center's Summer Internships and Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps were able to infuse funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA. Both programs end next week.

Adam Crowe, career counselor with the Larimer County Workforce Center, spearheaded the summer's internships, which helped 112 Larimer County 16-year-olds to 21-year-olds gain valuable work experience.

The youth were placed with a variety of different companies for the 255 available internships. Crowe said 55 percent of the companies were for profit businesses.

"We received an outpouring of interest from employers across Front Range," he said. "They have been integral, and the support, once an intern has been placed at these sites, is overwhelming."

Crowe said interns were able to gain valuable work skills from learning how to use Microsoft Excel to Occupational Safety and Health Administration training. He said it's hard to say how many of the in-terns were able to glean full time positions through the internships, but he estimates at least five youth found positions this summer.

"It's hard to say if transferred into jobs," he said. "It's not the ultimate goal, but its great icing on the cake."

Maelly Oropeza, program county coordinator with the Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps, said the 32 youth participating in this summer's program are working on environmental conservation trail work.

"It's much more than a job it's more of a program where these youth can work through the hurdles of becoming a successful employee," he said.

The program has been able to work with partners such as Spring Creek Community Gardens doing in kind work.

"We are really the vehicle for these youth to get to where they want to go," he said.

For more see Thursday's Coloradoan.

Coloradoan.com

Work force centers help youths obtain summer internships

BY DAVID YOUNG • DAVIDYOUNG@COLORADOAN.COM • AUGUST 6, 2009

Sweating under the brim of his bright white cowboy hat Wednesday afternoon, Alex Brunner shoveled a large pile of manure into a wheelbarrow.

He paused momentarily, leaning on his shovel with one hand to rest while patting a wandering cow with the other.

Many teens may scoff at the idea of spending their summer cleaning up after livestock, but Brunner genuinely enjoys working outside with his hands.

Brunner is one of more than 100 Larimer County youths spending this summer working with the Larimer County Workforce Center Summer Youth Employment programs, earning $7.50 an hour and learning valuable job skills.

Brunner, who will be a senior at Rocky Mountain High School, is part of the state's individual education plan because he has attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. He qualified for the internship this summer and landed a job at The Farm at Lee Martinez Park, 600 N. Sherwood Park, which has live animals and a museum.

"I have to be outside with people. I couldn't work all day at a desk," said 17-year-old Brunner who has worked with kids and maintained the facilities in his six-week internship. "There is nothing that makes food taste better than hard work."

Brunner, whose internship with The Farm ends today, hopes hard work will get him into college where he would like to study history and become a high school teacher.

This was the first year the work force center's Summer Internships and Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps were able to infuse funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA, to employ teens such as Brunner.

While both programs end soon, both interns and employers have benefited as they part ways.

Bridget Brownell, recreation supervisor for The Farm with the city of Fort Collins Recreation Depart-ment, said the farm had three interns from the work force center this summer and would like to use them again in the future.

"Here at The Farm, they really gained an insight to teamwork because they worked with other people," she said. "The soft-skills, like how to talk with other people and organizational skills - I think they learned a lot along those lines."

Bethany Beach Wave - Bethany Beach, DE, USA

'Kids take over the Kitchen' at Wor-Wic Community College

JULY 22, 2009

It's been a busy summer in our household -- work, a week of vacation, a new puppy, summer camps. We've even had to find time to send our older daughter off to college at age 9.

Too young? Yes, for all of us. But Alison didn't have far to go, just across town to Wor-Wic Community College and its first-class Workforce Development Center. That's where she and dozens of other Lower Shore students in elementary and middle school participated in classes in everything from art to digital photography and science to cooking at Wor-Wic's 2009 Summer Scholars Program.

Our daughter was one of many students taking a cooking class this summer, "Kids Take Over the Kitchen" with culinary educator Bonnie Aronson. Some time was spent in the classroom to learn about nutrition and wise food choices, but for most of the day they worked in the Workforce Development Center's commercial-level kitchen.

Why did children want to devote part of their summer to exploring a skill that some adults don't even bother to master these days?

"I wanted to learn how to cook so I could make dinner and breakfast and lunch for my family," said Taylor Schuyler, 8, a fourth-grader at North Salisbury Elementary. "They can't wait for me to do that."

"I haven't cooked at all except for Spaghetti O's." So making spaghetti herself by boiling water, adding and separating the noodles, and breaking a test noodle in half to check for doneness, was quite a revelation.

Brock Forsythe, 8, a fourth-grader at Pinehurst Elementary, has already tried his hand at cooking at home (spaghetti and sweet potato fluff are favorites), and he liked trying out new recipes. Cooking is fun because even "when you mess up things, sometimes it's good."

The recipe below was a winner with our daughter, who had never had tilapia before but had three helpings on the day it was cooked. She also ate scrambled eggs for the first time in years, having enjoyed the experience of making them herself. We all got to have a slice of her delicious Impossible Coconut Pie.

Bethany Ward, 10, a fifth-grader at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School in Salisbury, said she's not a big fan of fish or pie but, "I like cooking. My family likes cooking. My family has a recipe book and I wanted to learn something here that I could put in the recipe book."

At Summer Scholars, "I've learned how to be a better cook. I've learned so much it's kind of hard to explain," she said. "I've learned a lot of recipes, and I've learned how to wash my hands to be healthier, and I've learned how to eat healthier."

And even though their week to take over the kitchen at Wor-Wic is over, no doubt the students are still looking for opportunities to work in the kitchen.

"What happens is the kids get so comfortable cooking here, they go home and cook," Aronson said.

Baked Tilapia Fillets with Herbed Lemon-Butter Sauce

1 pound Tilapia fillets

1/4cup (half stick) butter or margarine

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1/4 teaspoon dried dill

1/4 teaspoon dried oregano

1/4 teaspoon paprika, plus additional for garnish

1/4 teaspoon onion powder

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

salt and pepper to taste

1 lemon, sliced thin in rounds, seeds removed

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place tilapia in a single layer in baking dish.

Melt butter in small saucepan. Remove from heat. To melted butter, add lemon juice, dill, oregano, paprika, onion powder and garlic powder; stir well.

Pour or brush butter-herb mixture over fillets. Place a single lemon slice on middle of fillet. Lightly sprinkle paprika over lemon.

Bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness of fish. Fish is done when it flakes easily with a fork. Serves 4.

There are still a few openings left in the summer Scholars classes, including the beginner and advanced level cooking classes. You can find out more about Wor-Wic's Summer Scholars Program at www.worwic.edu/SummerScholars, or call 410-334-2815.

Posted: 15 Jul 2009 06:54 AM PDT

MiamiHerald.com - Miami,FL,USA

Posted on Tuesday, 07.14.09

MIAMI-DADE

Stimulus dollars put teens, young adults to work for summer

Despite the economic downturn, many low-income teens and young adults will get paid work from Miami-Dade County and other municipalities during the summer.

BY NADEGE CHARLES
NCHARLES@MIAMIHERALD.COM

Over-qualified waiters and entry level clerks with masters degrees scooped-up job positions that recent American High School graduate, Willie Cooper, said he would have otherwise qualified for.

"I even tried a lot of fast food restaurants, but they said they already had too many people or they just weren't hiring," he said.

It's a very tough summer for high school and college students trying to find jobs. Many applicants find themselves grappling with older and more experienced workers for entry-level jobs once reserved for newcomers.

Cooper considers himself lucky to be chosen as one of 432 teenagers and young adults who will work for Miami-Dade County this summer. More than 13,000 applicants applied.

As stimulus dollars trickle into Miami-Dade, South Florida Workforce, a federally funded job program, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, will use $6 million earmarked for employment to place young people 14-24 in various paid positions through the summer youth employment program. The program helps low-income youth find jobs. Participants will earn from $8 to $10 an hour.

Teenagers with jobs will help stimulate the economy quicker than their older counterparts, said Rick Beasley, executive director of the South Florida Workforce.

"They're going to go out and buy that extra shirt, the new BlackBerry or whatever new electronic toys are out," he said.

Miami-Dade is one of several municipalities that will put young people to work during the summer months. Hialeah, Miami Gardens, Opa-locka, Doral, Homestead and Florida City -- along with private enterprises -- will also host summer interns.

Before the orientation for Miami Dade-County new hires at the Joseph A. Caleb Center on July 7, Ashli Jay, 16, already had a vision for the money she'll earn working this summer. She's going to buy a steer.

"Not an expensive one, I'm getting a cheap steer -- no more than $750," said the William H. Turner Technical High School agricultural student. ``I'm going to prepare him for market and hopefully whoever buys him will cut me a fat a check so I can make a profit."

The program has also provided opportunities for teachers, who may have otherwise remained unemployed for the summer. Teachers are assigned interns and help them navigate the workforce.

"They're like mentors," said Rohda Shirley, executive director of curriculum and instruction for Miami-Dade Public Schools.

Some high school students will also receive one academic credit and community service hours.

For Laquania Avant, 20, working for Miami-Dade is an opportunity to network and make the transition into a possible future career.

Avant, a junior at Florida Memorial University, will work in the correctional and rehabilitation department.

"I'm an education major. Right now, it's hard for people in my major to get a job," she said. ``I'm open to all opportunities that may come. I need to impress people before I graduate."

CBS 12's Legal Brief

Over 1,000 jobs offered in Palm Beach County through Workforce Alliance

June 10, 2009 - 6:42 PM

While many teens are having a hard time finding a summer job, there are hundreds of young adults in Palm Beach County that will be working and earning money.

It's all thanks to the Summer Youth Employment and Training program through Workforce Alliance.

Three million dollars in federal stimulus money funded the program which will give more than a thousand disadvantaged people ages 18 to 24 work experience and pay checks.

Workforce Alliance will match them with participating employers for 6 weeks over the summer.

The young adults have to be accepted and go through assessment and orientation which starts next week.

This is the first time the program is being offered. The goal is that the majority of them will get hired permanently.

Posted: 14 Jul 2009 11:41 AM PDT

PalmBeachPost. Com Local News

Money from stimulus program gives some a shot at first job

By WILLIE HOWARD

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Sunday, July 12, 2009

RIVIERA BEACH — About 400 young workers reported for duty last week at government offices and businesses throughout Palm Beach County to begin six weeks of on-the-job training paid for with federal stimulus money.

The Summer Youth Employment and Training Program administered by the Workforce Alliance uses stimulus dollars to pay workers $7.25 an hour, 30 hours a week. It also pays for workers compensation insurance. Employers provide supervision and training.

Employers and employees are still being sought for the Workforce Alliance Summer Youth Employment and Training Program.

Employees must be 18 to 24 and meet income guidelines to be eligible. Employees undergo a three-day employment training program. Background checks are done on employees if requested by employers. Employers are screened and visited by Workforce Alliance staff before they can be eligible for free help.

The goal is for workers ages 18 to 24 to gain experience for their résumés and learn skills that could lead to full-time employment.

"The group we're focusing on has the highest rate of unemployment," said Rick Hemming, director of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act programs for the Workforce Alliance in West Palm Beach.

The organization is trying to place 1,000 young people in jobs before the program ends Sept. 30.

"For some of these kids, this is the first job they've ever had," Hemming said.

His personal goal is for 25 percent of the young workers in the six-week program to gain full-time employment.

During their second day at work Tuesday at the Riviera Beach Marina, James Dorsey, Joshua Hutchinson, Timothy Lowery II and Tron Johnson were learning to pull boats onto a giant

forklift that moves them onto racks in the dry-storage building, to watch blind spots for the forklift driver and to hose down boats.

Dockmaster David Napier said the young men will be learning all aspects of marina operations during their six-week stint, which ends Aug. 14.

"I want to try to learn a lot out here," said Dorsey, 20, of Riviera Beach. "I can see myself working around these boats."

Lowery said he wanted to get more work experience for his résumé and earn some money before heading back to Florida A&M University, where he is studying architecture.

At the Riviera Beach Municipal Complex, the young women answering phones and organizing files in the mayor's office included three single mothers, ages 19 to 24, who have been looking for work but don't have a lot of experience.

City spokeswoman Rose Anne Brown said city staffers will strive to teach them Microsoft Office software along with administrative skills and the basics of municipal government.

"They're getting an up-close look at city government," Brown said. "Who knows, they may be running for city council someday."

In the city's legislative office, Krystal Jefferson and Santana Norfus categorized and filed documents for city council members.

As they worked, Councilman Shelby Lowe rolled in a cart holding cardboard boxes loaded with documents to be sorted.

"They're very nice young ladies," said Maryann Guarascio, executive assistant in the city's legislative office.

"They're on time. They're pleasant. And they have not said no to anything we asked them to do."

Application forms can be found at www.pbcalliance.com or by calling the Workforce Alliance at (800) 556-5627.

Podcast:
http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2009/07/12/a11b_workforce_0713.html

Workforce Alliance Program Provides Summer Jobs for Over One Thousand Palm Beach County Youths

Workforce Alliance -- We are the workforce solution driving economic growth. (PRNewsFoto/Workforce Alliance)

WEST PALM BEACH, FL UNITED STATES

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Aug. 20 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- More than one thousand young adults of Palm Beach County, aged 18 to 24, have obtained summer jobs at employer worksites throughout the County with their wages being paid by Workforce Alliance. The funds are being provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly known as the "Stimulus Bill" and the jobs are being provided by area businesses and municipalities.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20080814/CLTH102LOGO)

Kathryn Schmidt, President and Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Alliance, said, "The entire community contributed to making the summer youth program successful and can be justly proud of its results. The Palm Beach County employers participating in the program are very pleased with their 'summer hires.' The participants went through a required three-day work readiness course prior to reporting to their six-week employment assignment."

Ms. Schmidt added, "We are very thankful to the businesses and municipalities who volunteered to take part in the program by providing safe and meaningful employment experiences that will help the young participants get started on a career, or earn money to further their education."

Participating employers and youth have shared these comments:

FASTSIGNS of North Palm Beach employed participant Andrew Cesar at its Northlake Blvd. facility and owner, Lisa Bondurant said, "He is an interested and quick learner, and is also extremely appreciative of any training and assistance he is provided." The company has rotated him from the production side to the graphics department for a full learning experience with the business. One of the projects he completed was a sign to be used by Workforce Alliance as it places its mobile resource units in community outreach locations.

Sancilio and Company, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, filled five positions in production and three in administration at their two Palm Beach County facilities. Owner, Alex Sancilio, explained, "We began by having each participant fill out an application and then go through an interview process. We then put them through proper training before placing them in what we determined to be the right work position for each individual. They now work right alongside scientists and are part of our team."

Erickson Farm in Canal Point employed two of the summer youth and Krista Erickson, operations manager of the 60-acre farm, gave high praise to the program: "All potential employers want people with experience. Now, both of our participants have solid workplace experience and will have a reference to place on their resumes when seeking future employment. One of the participants is an office assistant and the second youth helps in the process of packing crates of fruits for shipping to customers all over the world."

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County employed Shanique Jarret, 19, of West Palm Beach, and assigned her to projects that employ her considerable skills in computer literacy. Ms. Jarret said she is impressed by the professional atmosphere of the office, and plans to attend Palm Beach Community College

at the end of the summer program. "I plan to take courses leading to a teaching position, and then continue to study something related to law."

Taylor Productions of Lake Worth and the City of West Palm Beach Northwood Youth Empowerment Center Four accepted four of the youth participants for summer employment. Company President, Dwayne Taylor, said, "They are learning video production techniques and are involved in producing a documentary on their own program, the Workforce Alliance summer employment program." Upon completion, the documentary will be placed on the Workforce Alliance web site.

Jeff Industries' Tim Tycocki is very pleased with the results of the program and said, "This program helps the youth and it helps our business. Just as Brandon got here, we got an unexpected job. He stepped right in, learned the techniques and is helping get the job done." The participant, Brandon Barrett, said, "I'm glad to get the opportunity to learn the trade here at Jeff Industries. Without it, I would probably have spent the summer just hanging out on the street with my friends."

Lagoon Keepers, a company that does boat repair and salvage work, employed three participants. The Executive Director and Founder, Greg Reynolds, said, "They are learning boat repair, the use of basic tools as well as some unusual industry-specific tools and are also accompanying our crews as we respond to boating hazards."

The Riviera Beach Marina is one of the worksites for youths hired by the City of Riviera Beach. Dockmaster David Napier said, "The young men assigned here will learn a wide variety of marina tasks during the six week period." He and his staff initially instructed the summer employees in the safety precautions that are necessary in such operations as using a forklift to move boats. The four youths employed at the site are James Dorsey, Joshua Hutchinson, Tron Johnson, and Timothy Lowery II.

Workforce Alliance, as the organization chartered by the State of Florida to develop a quality workforce system in Palm Beach County, was the recipient of the Stimulus Bill funds to operate the summer program. Workforce Alliance operates three Career Centers and Professional Placement Centers that offer workforce and employment services to all employers and to both youth and adult job seekers in the County on a year-round basis. The Career Centers are located in Belle Glade, Boynton Beach and West Palm Beach. The addresses and phone numbers are listed on the Workforce Alliance website, www.pbcalliance.com.

SOURCE Workforce Alliance

ABC WPBF-TV 25
wpbf.com

Young Adults Score Summer Jobs

Program Accepting More Employees, Employers

POSTED: 3:51 pm EDT June 17, 2009

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. -- A quick glance around Meldon Hall at Palm Beach Community College and it appears a game show taping is in the works. But after the cheering and "lifelines," it becomes clear these contestants are actually winners.

The group of 200 scored summer jobs through Workforce Alliance of Palm Beach County.

"With the recession going on, it's hard to find a job," said Kahtoya Wesley, 20.

The Summer Youth Employment Program is being funded with $3 million in federal stimulus dollars. The jobseekers are between 18 and 24. And when they get a position, their employers don't have to pay their salaries; the stimulus money does.

"We'll have a thousand youth employed," said Rich Hemming of Workforce Alliance.

He said the idea is to pump money quickly into the local economy.

"Now, our obvious goal is at least 25 percent will be hired on a permanent part-time basis with employers," said Hemming.

To get prepared for their new spots, the group is learning what it takes to thrive in the working world.

"I learned how to dress for an interview, how to manage my time, manage money," said Javaris Nelly, 18.

"I got fired like five times. It was bad," said John Hill, who was quick to volunteer for the interactive learning sessions on stage.

Hill thinks he now has skills to keep from getting fired a sixth time.

"How to work with your supervisor better," said Hill of the lesson he picked up, "because I usually don't."

Wesley has her sites on a good summer job -- one that might morph into so much more.

"I want to be an entrepreneur when I grow up," said Wesley. "So I'm kind of more skillful person in a lot areas. So I feel like I can work with anything so a job wouldn't matter to me, long as I have one."

The program is accepting more youth employees and employers. Workforce Alliance has set up a toll-free Summer Youth Employment hot line at 1-866-841-0225.

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Video: http://www.wpbf.com/money/19780543/detail.html

Posted: 20 Jul 2009 05:10 AM PDT

Online Athens - Athens,GA,USA

Programs to keep young people busy make an impact

By Joe Johnson | joe.johnson@onlineathens.com | Story updated at 11:59 pm on 7/18/2009

Daquan Faust, 17, cleans the inside of Athens Transit buses Tuesday.

Jahmal Swaby, 15, stacks chairs Wednesday as part of his work with a lunch program at the Nellie B Community Center.

15-year-old Jahmal Swaby stacks coolers while working in a lunch program at the Athens Housing Authority's Nellie B Community Center. Government agencies and nonprofits like the Boys & Girls Club of Athens run camps and other programs to keep young people busy during the summer.

John Clink, 19, cleans a window at Athens Transit's fleet maintenance center recently.

Click Thumbnails to View

Jahmal Swaby likes to dress sharp, and unlike some of his peers, the 15-year-old works hard for what he wants.

"I'm a shoes and hat man," the Clarke Central High School sophomore said during a break from his summer job serving lunch at the Nellie B Community Center.

"When I get my paycheck, it makes me feel proud," Swaby said. "I don't have to ask my mom for a loan when I want to buy something."

Swaby, who lives in the Nellie B Homes public housing complex, knows kids his age who steal what they want.

"They'll say, 'Man, I got a sweet lick last night,' " he said, then brag about the watches, cell phones and cash they stole after kicking in the door of someone's home.

Athens-Clarke County is in the midst of a property crime wave, the likes of which residents never have seen.

Police project that by year's end, they will have investigated more than 2,000 burglaries, most of them probably committed by teens 16 years old and younger.

That's why government agencies and nonprofits like the Boys & Girls Club of Athens run camps and other programs to keep kids busy during the summer.

"I've seen growth and I've seen the potential these kids have to follow their dreams," said Geraldine Clarke, the Athens Housing Authority's resident support director who has overseen the agency's summer lunch program the past two decades.

"I just wish more people would take the time to work with them," she said.

The Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center used its federal economic stimulus funding to invest in the region's young people.

From its $1.5 million economic stimulus check, the NEGRDC put $1.2 million toward its summer work opportunities program, creating 1,100 summer jobs in the region - 181 in Clarke County - for low-income young people between the ages of 14 and 24.

They went to work at the mayor's office, police department, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens Transit, Athens Area Habitat for Humanity and elsewhere, earning $6.55 an hour, said Carol Rayburn Cofer, director of work force development for the NEGRDC

"We were given a mandate (by the U.S. Department of Labor) to run a strong summer youth program" in the 12 counties the agency serves, she said.

As part of the program, Swaby and eight other kids begin their days at the housing authority at 7:25 a.m.

"They start work at 7:30, but we expect them to be here five minutes early, otherwise they are penalized," Clarke said.

"When they leave this program, I want them to have the best idea of how it is to work, to follow rules, to work together as a group," she said.

Before serving lunches at three housing authority sites, the teens perform clerical work and other duties, Clarke said, and they are required to keep a journal of their activities, learn how to budget and manage their earnings, and listen to guest speakers.

College students who worked the summer lunch program years earlier shared their experiences and advice, and they left an impression on Swaby.

"I learned a lot about college, like what classes you need to take," said Swaby, who loves numbers and aspires to be an accountant.

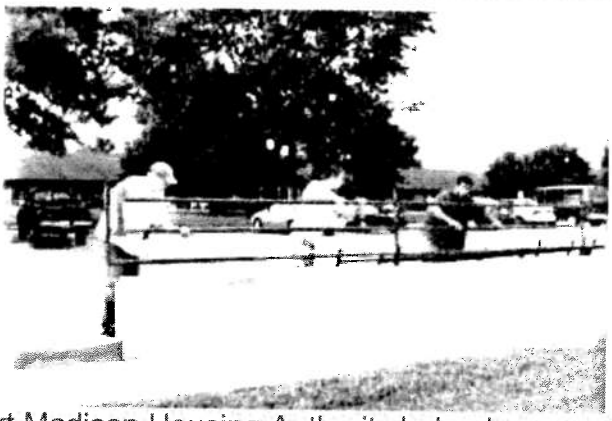
He knows the importance of an honest days work and says he can't be swayed by friends who might want to get money and things by stealing.

"Everybody knows I'm cool, that I don't do stuff like that," Swaby said. "People need to think about their future, because one mistake can ruin your entire life."

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Sunday, July 19, 2009

Fort Madison Daily Democrat

Stimulus funds put local youth to work and provide savings to their employers.



The Fort Madison Housing Authority helped area youth this summer by offering work. Pictured (left to right) is Monte Butler, Supervisor for the housing authority instructing Ethan Knisley and Jeff Moore on the installation of a railing at 48th Street.

Published: Friday, August 21, 2009 11:34 AM CDT

Brennan Umthun

Staff Writer

Some area youth have been taking advantage of stimulus funds this summer, by working in various capacities while gaining on-the-job training, experience and social tools.

The Summer Youth Employment and Training Program in Region 16, which was made possible by the federal Workforce Investment Act, received $841,000 in federal stimulus funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Iowa received more than $4 million statewide). These funds cover the four county areas of Lee (North and South), Des Moines, Henry and Louisa Counties.

The program provides work readiness and job skills training to eligible youth who fall within the 14-24 years-of-age guideline.

Officials believe that many of these employable young citizens would not have access to a job due to the area's continued high 8 percent unemployment rate.

The Region 16 goal of the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program has been to put 220 youth in all four county areas to work in summer jobs and give them skills to enable them to find and retain jobs in the future.

Over the course of the summer, area youth have had the opportunity to attend several different leadership trainings as part of their experience requiring them to utilize team building and problem solving skills. These trainings took place at multiple venues, including a ropes course in the Quad Cities and Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines. 50 area youth participated in a single activity at Geode State Park near Danville.

Enrichment courses were also offered in areas such as computers, construction math, customer service, and solar energy projects. Some youth in the program are taking Certified Nurse's Aide training in addition to working their summer job. Many area youth are receiving assistance with pre-employment training and preparing a resume for future job-seeking.

Area worksites participating in the summer youth employment and training program interviewed program participants and hired them to work in an actual work experience according to their own policies as applied to their year-around employees in addition to some Department of Labor guidelines.

"This program has been a big success," said Terri Butler, Summer Youth Employment and Training Program Coordinator for Fort Madison. "I can give many examples of youth who have grown in this program."

Butler said she sees youth gain confidence, a higher level of training and additional job skills.

"I have seen worksites and supervisors take the youth into their worksite family and provide them with acceptance and a willingness to help them,

which they may not have experienced with other jobs they've had," she said.

Butler added that she knows of youth who have become valued at particular worksites and may be considered to continue on with that employer. "I credit the sites as great places for the youth to gain knowledge of how to perform on the job and to give them work experience to go on to further employment."

She said she credits the youth just as much. "I credit them for doing well on their training and interviews and being an asset to their worksites. It has been a tremendous summer youth employment program."

Patti Toops, director of the Fort Madison Housing Authority, said the summer program has helped the housing authority increase production without increasing expenses. "But more important, we were able to help provide a worksite that allowed the participants a place to gain a variety of skills while helping give back to the community by being a worksite. That's a win-win opportunity in my book," she said.

Ethan Knisley, a student at Central Lee, took advantage of the program by working for the Fort Madison Housing Authority.

"This program helped me with job training and to find a summer job to make some extra money," he said.

The program also helped Jeffrey Moore, of Fort Madison. "The job skills I have been taught is what I like about the summer employment program," he said.

Both of the youth employees worked under Monte Butler, a supervisor for the Housing Authority. Butler said he received help and finished projects that otherwise may have not been completed without the summer help. "They have been great workers," he said.

Sandy Brown, executive director of the Fort Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau, reported back to youth employment program officials that much of her time had been freed up to work on bigger projects because of the help that Heather Wholey provided. Wholey is enrolled at the University of Iowa for the fall semester, but worked in the youth employment and training program over the summer where she did mailings, answered the phones and worked on promotional materials and

brochures, as well as spreadsheets. "Unhappily, for us, Heather's last day is Friday," Brown added.

"I have learned how to multi-task, talk to people on the phone and do computer work," Wholey said. "I eventually want to be a writer and I was allowed to write a ghost story for the upcoming Haunted Cemetery Tour."

Melissa Pieper, Director at Holy Trinity Early Learning Childhood Center, said that her summer youth employees monitor the children and assist them with their daily activities.

"I think it's a really good chance for youth to learn the importance of performing on the job and how to hold on to that job," she said.

Jaimie Severs worked for Pieper at the Holy Trinity ECC. "Along with working at the job, I have taken CNA training through this program and am testing for that certification," Severs said. "I can get a better job with that certification and take better care of my kids."

"Jaimie has been a great employee," Pieper said. "I have seen her confidence and ability build through her time here."

KPVI News 6
Federal Stimulus Dollars Create Meaningful Jobs for Troubled Youth

Posted: Aug 13, 2009 12:21 AM EDT

Many people feel lucky to have a job right now, let alone striving to be completely satisfied with what their doing.

For one local man, he's not only passionate about what he does he says it fulfills his spiritual needs.

Governor Butch otter, State of Idaho: "I've seen 840 young lives turned around."

If it's up to Governor Otter the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps Program will continue on. He's already looking into ways to create a private public partnership since the $2 million was a one time only deal thanks to the Federal Stimulus Package.

Michael Eldridge, Idaho Youth Conservation Corps: "We get paid, not very much, but I'm not worried about the money I just like the experience to get to work out here."

Youth across the state paired up with different agencies this summer. Michael Eldridge worked with Idaho Fish and Game Officers, spraying noxious weeds, building fences and directing wildlife in the right direction.

Along the way, Michael found his calling.

Michael Eldridge, Idaho Youth Conservation Corps: "It's me, I like the wildlife and I like being out here. It makes me feel free and at home. Plus, my grandma likes it she raised me the traditional ways."

Michael says being able to shake the Governor's hand was unexpected and priceless.

Governor Butch otter, State of Idaho: "They've got new worth, new value in themselves. The community now has value in them and that is valuable to the community."

Governor Otter promised to try and find similar employment for Michael and others next summer in the Treasure Valley.

Posted: 23 Jul 2009 04:55 AM PDT

Fox12Idaho - Nampa-Boise, Idaho, USA

Teen Summer Job Opportunity

Meridian, Idaho -- Teens having a hard time finding summer jobs are getting a break from the Department of Labor.

They're being hired to work at job sights around the city of Meridian, the Meridian School District and various non-profits. The department is using stimulus money to fund what they're calling the Summer Youth Employment Program.

It helps kids and young adults between the ages of 14 to 24 get work experience while improving their communities.

"The kids all start out at $7.25 an hour and most of them are working full time for five or eight weeks so it gives them a little extra summer cash," explained Mitchell Post, with the Department of Labor.

The program started in late May and will run through September.

Chicago Tribune

Aurora police camp introduces teens to jobs in law enforcement

Aurora police camp introduces teens to jobs in law enforcement

By Margaret Ramirez Tribune reporter

August 7, 2009

Inside the Aurora police station, Sgt. Kevin Triplett and CSI expert Tim Ciochon flashed the striking images before the teens.

The first slide was of a ransacked grocery store. Next was a burned van used in a drive-by shooting. Finally, a dead man's body slumped over on a chair.

The actual crime scene photos sparked discussions of how police would gather evidence in different situations. Later, the teens brushed for fingerprints, used a gummy paste to get molds of bite marks, and took a tour inside the Forensic Investigation Unit, the black truck used by evidence officers at crime scenes.

"If you see this truck in your neighborhood, it's probably not a good thing," Triplett said in a deep-voiced deadpan.

While some teenagers used their summertime for sports or leisurely activities, this intrepid group of 15 Aurora high school students spent the past seven weeks enrolled in a Law Enforcement Youth Academy created to show them how police officers, prosecutors and federal agents work. The program, for young adults from 14 to 18, included tours of the Aurora Police Department and pistol range, the Kane County state's attorney's office and jail, as well as the 16th Circuit Court in St. Charles.

In addition, the teens received visits from Kane County Sheriff Patrick B. Perez, Aurora Police Chief Greg Thomas, two agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and one FBI agent. To get a taste of being real cops, the youths spent one session with Aurora officers doing mock traffic stops, learning how officers are trained to deal with people in different situations.

For 17-year-old Jacob Saul, a senior at West Aurora High School, those mock traffic stops were the highlight of the summer program.

"I came here because I wanted to see a different aspect of how police officers operate. Something besides what we see on television and the movies," he said. "After learning about all the different agencies, I think this is something I want to do."

On Thursday, the program formally ended with keynote address from Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner and presentations from participants on how the program impacted their lives.

The Law Enforcement Youth Academy started in June 2004, and was developed by Pamela Bradley, administrator of the Community Prosecution Unit for the Kane County state's attorney's office. As she noticed more young people involved in crime and drugs, Bradley said she saw the need for a program that would educate youth on the legal system and build a better relationship with police.

"I thought it would be a great idea to get kids more comfortable with police, so they could feel they could come to us if they had a problem," she said.

Aurora Police Department School Resource Officer Chris Tunney said an important goal of the program is

to help teens make the right choices during a critical time in their life so they don't succumb to peer pressure.

"There are so many young people who think they are defined by the people around them. Our message is that they should define themselves," she said. "We tell them, 'It's your life, so make it amazing.' "

Since the youth academy began, several of the 52 teenagers who completed the program have gone on to pursue careers in law enforcement as police cadets or with internships with the Kane County state's attorney's office.

John Martinez, 21, who attended the academy in 2005 and is now an Aurora police officer, said the experience reinforced his desire to be a cop.

"I guess every kid dreams about being a cop at some point in their life," he said. "But, being a part of the academy gave me a chance to sit and talk with officers one-on-one about police work. That made me want to give something back."

Markque Rama, 17, who attends East Aurora High School, said listening to the DEA agents this summer had the greatest impact on him. Rama said he has several friends who have started abusing drugs and hopes to prevent other teens from falling into the same trap.

"I want to get drugs out of our community. I see all the crime and problems they cause and I just want to stop that," he said.

Rama said he originally was torn between a law enforcement career or joining the Marines. After attending the law enforcement youth academy, his decision was sealed.

"By joining the Marines, you save lives overseas," Rama said. "But, I want take care of problems right here. I could be in law enforcement and still save lives here."

maramirez@tribune.com

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The Urbana Daily Citizen
8/17/2009 9:19:00 AM

Stimulus workers employed in a variety of summer jobs

BREANNE PARCELS
Staff Writer

While many of the 31 Champaign County youths employed with federal stimulus funds are working in private enterprises for the summer, several are getting a taste of public service, too.

Pete Yost, the county's youth Workforce Investment Act coordinator, said fair goers this week are benefiting from the ingenuity of two young women working for the maintenance crew at the fairgrounds.

"They helped with the remodeling of the grandstands and worked out a method that was faster and more efficient to install seats, so it saved some time and cost for the fair board," Yost said. "We have another young man who's helping out at Kiser Lake."

The summer stimulus employment and training program was offered in June to all income-eligible people between the ages of 14 and 24, and positions with local employers were contracted through the Champaign County Department of Job and Family Services. The federal funds pay for the employees' wages, benefits and other employment-related costs, while employers are responsible for supervision and evaluation. Most of the positions were secured for six weeks, and the workers were allowed to work up 35 hours per week under the program guidelines.

"We were able to get extensions for some of the youth that really enjoyed their jobs," Yost said. "We have one young lady who will be working in this program through the end of September."

Yost said the program was primarily intended to help youths find stable summer jobs in a tight employment market, but it also lets high-school and college-age students get a first-hand look at possible career fields such as journalism and floral design, along with teaching self-sufficiency and social skills and providing each participant up to $15,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education.

Courtney Lucas, 20, of Urbana, said he plans to study at a culinary arts college, so performing building maintenance for county properties will have limited translation to the kitchen, even if he does become a restaurant owner or chef someday.

"Fixing lights won't help me cook, but it will help me learn," he said. "We learned how to do ballasts (for fluorescent lights) and also a little bit of electrical work. We also know how to wash windows really well now."

Steven Collier, 18, of Mechanicsburg, who is also employed by the county, said he's eager to take his summer job earnings and turn it into educational opportunity.

"I plan on going to college for diesel tech, but before I got this job, I was looking at my finances and I didn't know if I'd even have the money to go to school," Collier said.

Collier and Lucas said they've learned a lot of practical skills that will help them no matter which career paths they eventually take.

"We've done a lot of painting and we know how to groom trees," Collier said.

"We have a lot of fun, even though it's tough work," Lucas agreed.

Editor's note: Urbana Daily Citizen intern Brittney Reisinger is employed as part of the stimulus summer jobs program.

City Colleges of Chicago Receives Almost $1 Million to Provide Summer Jobs for Area Youth

Released August 04, 2009

450 jobs made possible through federal stimulus funding provided to Chicago Department of Family & Support Services.

City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), in partnership with the Chicago Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS), is providing hundreds of young adults with summer jobs this year. The jobs were made possible thanks to $15 million in federal stimulus funding provided to DFSS, which in turn provided CCC with $945,000 to fund the program.

About 450 people age 19-24 are taking advantage of summer jobs, ranging from positions at Washburne Culinary Institute's Sikia Restaurant, to administrative positions at the District office and colleges. According to outgoing CCC Chancellor Wayne D. Watson, the program has two main goals: to place young people in areas where they already have an interest or prior experience; and to allow summer workers to explore the career programs available at CCC.

"CCC is offering valuable work experiences for young people to encourage academic advancement while providing a chance to serve the community," Chancellor Watson said. "This is truly an example of federal stimulus funds at work to improve our community."

Besides clerical and administrative work, there are opportunities to work on innovative "green" initiatives across the district such as neighborhood recycling programs and community outreach. Other positions include Web Design Intern, Laboratory Assistant, Marketing and Communications Assistant, Customer Service Representative, Community Advocate, Peer tutor, and many more.

"I've gotten the chance to do a lot of networking with professional, successful people, and this will help me as I pursue a career in medicine," said Eric Ruffin, 21, a pre-med student at Chicago State University who is working at the Administrative Services department of CCC.

"We want our students to be a catalyst to educate the community," said Angela Henderson, Interim Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. "We want to give them positions that tie into their majors as much as possible. The job possibilities are endless."

According to Jasmin Dover, 21, an accounting student at Southern Illinois University who is taking summer classes at Daley College, the summer jobs program has provided her the opportunity to connect with other professionals and to learn new technology that will help her in her field.

"I am learning a lot of great technical skills," Dover said. "The office work has been a great experience for me, and I've also enjoyed going into the campus neighborhoods to do outreach work."

To assist students with developing professional skills, summer workers must attend a weekly Career Success Seminar that teaches resume writing, conflict resolution, and job search skills. Summer workers selected as Supervisors are also provided with additional leadership training seminars, hosted at the CCC District office. In addition, summer workers are provided with a uniform and transportation to and from job sites.

This was the first year that DFSS offered summer jobs to young adults up to age 24. Previously, only those age 14 to 21 were eligible. Jobs pay around $9 to $12 an hour. Student workers were chosen based on Chicago residency and family income level.

MEDIA CONTACT:

City Colleges of Chicago Press Office, 312-553-2528

The News-Gazette.com

Summer jobs program helps youths learn new skills

By Noelle McGee

Thursday, July 9, 2009 9:03 AM CDT

DANVILLE – Before this summer, Sharelle Campbell never pictured herself a) up on a ladder, and b) using power tools.

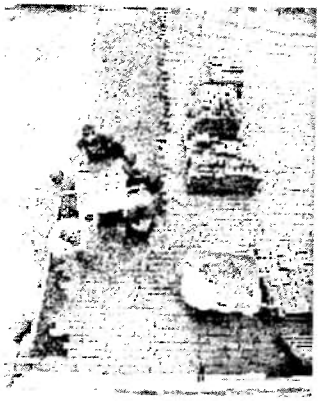
But in the past three weeks, the 24-year-old Danville woman has done both while working at two Habitat for Humanity of Danville construction sites – sometimes at the same time.

"You usually see me in heels and stuff," Campbell said with a laugh, while taking a break from measuring and cutting a piece of drywall. "But it's going OK. ... I've met some new people. I'm learning a lot of new skills. And you feel pretty good when you accomplish something."

Campbell has been working for Habitat as part of the Center for Children's Services summer youth jobs program.

The program, which is funded by federal stimulus money, is giving about 50 youths ages 14 to 24 job training and work experience and putting a little spending money in their pocket.

Three crews of about seven participants and one supervisor have been helping Habitat volunteers build a house at 1111 N. Gilbert St. They also have been helping the organization rehab an old city fire station at 905 N. Walnut St., which serves as its headquarters and storage facility.



Participants in the Center for Children's Services summer youth jobs program move a table saw at Habitat for Humanity of Danville's headquarters at 705 N. Walnut St. on Wednesday. Workers were unloading tools donated by Renaissance Danville. By Rick Danzl

"It's going really well," said John Graves, Habitat's executive director.

"A third of the kids are absolutely excellent workers," he continued, adding they all put in 20 hours a week. "They're always working and thinking ahead. About 65 percent are good, but they need some supervision. And less than a handful aren't real motivated, but we're working with them. Some of the other kids are trying to motivate them, too."

Habitat officials broke ground on the 1,200-square-foot three-bedroom, two-bath ranch-style house on Gilbert Street about a month ago. So far, program participants have helped put down the floor and put up the walls. If it doesn't rain today, a Marsters Sign Co. worker will use a crane to lift the roof trusses, Graves said, then volunteers and program participants will nail them in place.

"We want to try to get that under roof," said Graves, who hopes to complete the project by year's end. "That's been our main priority, and we've had most of the kids working there. That project is also a little more exciting for the kids. They actually get to watch something go up."

On Wednesday, everyone worked at the organization's headquarters because of the weather. Downstairs, one group painted the base of a workbench, while upstairs, another scraped old plaster from the brick walls and measured and cut pieces of drywall to hang on the ceiling.

Outside, another group was helping to rehab the building's original brick driveway, which had been covered under layers of dirt and rocks for years.

"It was a disaster," said 16-year-old Chance Wilson of Danville. He and 15-year-old Jeremy Greene of Indianola have been helping to pull up the bricks, clean and stack them, raise the ground level so the driveway will be even with Walnut Street, and then re-lay them in a straight pattern.

Program participants also helped load tools and building supplies that were donated to Habitat by officials from Renaissance Danville before the nonprofit group was disbanded. They donated a table saw, a miter saw, a planer, saw horses, steel storage boxes, a lot of lumber and cleaning supplies.

"In closing our business affairs, we had tools and building supplies that we wanted to be sure were given to someone who could use them and someone who was doing like-kind business in the community. Habitat for Humanity was perfect," said Thom Pollock, who served as Renaissance's board president.

"It's really a godsend" Graves said, adding the donation is worth a few thousand dollars. "It came at a really good time. Because we're working at different locations, we can put tools on both job sites ... instead of having to move them back and forth or bring in our own tools."

Back to regular view • Print this page

Program offers job seekers 'JumpStart' in their careers

(http://www.pioneerlocal.com/niles/news/1700591,niles-jumpstart-080609-s1.article)

August 4, 2009

By TONY BERTUCA tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Josh Myers, an 18-year-old from Niles, found out this summer what it takes to be a firefighter.

"I thought it was very interesting," he said. "I went out on inspections, I learned about the Fire Department and all the equipment they use.

"They also taught me about their medical training. I think I might pursue it as a career."

Myers, a recent graduate from Maine East High School, was placed with the Des Plaines Fire Department through a special program at Maine Township High School District 207 -- JumpStart.

The program, which offers participants opportunities to have paid work experiences and job training, received $180,000 in federal stimulus funds this summer.

"The stimulus money isn't just going toward new roads," said Laura Cook, coordinator for JumpStart.

Cook said the program had 80 participants between the ages of 15 and 24, who worked with a team of job coaches and made $7.50 an hour at various workplaces in the area.

"We employ eight job coaches who give participants work-readiness training," she said. "Most participants have never had a work experience.

"The whole goal of the program is have them placed in workplaces that will likely hire them."

JumpStart participant Linnea Hernandez, 18, said she has been offered a permanent job at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, where she was initially placed by a job coach.

"My job is to transport patients around the hospital," she said. "I definitely like this job. It's cool to get to work at a hospital."

Hernandez, who recently graduated from Maine East High School, said she would likely take the job at Lutheran General and work while she is not attending class at Oakton Community College.

"It's that I've been offered a position," she said. "It was a really great experience to have fresh out of high school."

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Summer youth jobs program to be announced

BusinessRockford.com Staff Reports
Mar 18, 2009 @ 05:33 PM

Representatives of the Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board and the partner agencies of The Workforce Connection will be holding a news conference at 3 p.m. Thursday to announce plans for a new summer youth jobs program.

The program will be paid for out of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is expected to funnel $3 million to Boone and Winnebago counties for job training.

The news conference will be held at Rockford City Hall, **425 E. State St.**, in City Council chambers.

BusinessRockford.com

Full house at info sessions on youth jobs

By Sean F. Driscoll
BusinessRockford.com
Mar 23, 2009 @ 09:44 PM

The response to Monday's orientation sessions for the Summer Youth Jobs Connection was so overwhelming that **Rock River Training Corp.** staff held impromptu sessions in between scheduled ones to keep up with demand.

The prospect of a steady summer wage, funded by $1.5 million from the federal stimulus package that's coming to the local Workforce Investment Board, brought more than 500 people to sessions at the Workforce Connection office in Belvidere and the Rockford Public Library.

Two more sessions are scheduled for 10 and 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Rockford Public Library auditorium, 215 N. Wyman St., and The Workforce Connection, 998 Belvidere Road, Belvidere.

Attendance at the sessions isn't mandatory, but it's highly encouraged. Jackie Tenard, a counselor at Rock River Training Corp., said lots of paperwork needs to be done before youths can register for the program.

"To avoid wasting your time, bring everything with you that we ask so we can process your application," she said at one of Monday's sessions.

Officials expect to place 300 to 400 16- to 24-year-olds at part-time jobs this summer.
Companies are still being solicited to participate, but it's expected that most of the jobs will be with nonprofit groups, governments or schools

.
To be eligible, participants must meet income guidelines and have a barrier to employment, such as being a dropout or a parent or having a criminal record.

Reach staff writer Sean F. Driscoll at 815-987-1346 or sdriscoll@rrstar.com.

Are you eligible to participate?
You may be eligible for this program if:
You are receiving or have been approved to receive food stamps within the past six months.
OR
If you or anyone in your family is receiving township assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income.
OR
You consider yourself to be homeless (lacking a fixed, permanent nighttime residence) or are a foster child or ward of the state.
OR
If none of the above conditions apply to you, your combined family gross income for the past six months from your application date is at or below the following amounts:
1 resident: $5,200.
2 residents: $7,000.
3 residents: $8,873.
4 residents: $10,952.
5 residents: $12,925.
6 residents: $15,113.50.
Add $2,188.50 for each additional family member.

AND
You can provide proof that you are:
A school dropout.
Basic skills deficient (will be determined at a testing session).
One or more grade levels below the appropriate grade level for your age.
One or more disabilities, including learning disabilities.
A foster child/ward of state.
Pregnant.
A parent.
Homeless.

A runaway.
An offender.

Business Rockford.com

Youths learn how to apply for jobs

By Sean F. Driscoll
BusinessRockford.com
May 07, 2009 @ 03:25 PM

The first group of 342 local youths getting work this summer through a stimulus-funded jobs program hit the classroom this week, part of the training that's a prerequisite of employment through the Summer Youth Jobs Program.

At Rockford Public Library's Montague branch, 35 youths are learning about resumes, cover letters, job-hunting skills and workplace etiquette. They'll have interviews next week to place them in one of the positions offered this summer.

"Many of them have worked fast-food or a similar job, but some of them have never worked," instructor Jennifer Wilkens said. "The skills they learn here, we're hoping they'll apply not only to the summer work but be applying them to future employment."

Terrissa Christopher, 21, of Rockford said she had a resume before she started the class but wasn't aware of how much work went into a good one.

"I didn't know there had to be so much on there, and so much in the cover letters," she said. "There's a lot you have to do to get them right."

The job program has 40 companies offering 310 positions, said Darcy Bucholz, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board, with more set to be added to the list soon. The youths, ages 16 to 24, will be paid at least minimum wage, depending on the job.

The program is being funded through a $1.7 million slice of the federal stimulus package, part of a $4.7 million training check being written to the local Workforce Investment Board.

BusinessRockford.com

Summer youth jobs program full of applicants

By Sean F. Driscoll
BusinessRockford.com
Jun 10, 2009 @ 10:42 AM

The summer youth jobs program is no longer looking for new employees.

The program, paid for by a $1.7 million slice of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, matches economically disadvantaged young adults ages 16 to 24 with local employers offering summer work. The youths will be paid at least minimum wage, depending upon the job.

John Strandin, spokesman for the Workforce Investment Board, which is overseeing the program, said 560 eligible young people already are enrolled in the program and about 316 jobs are available, although employers still are signing on.

"That might sound like a mismatch, but ... we will lose kids along the way. Some won't pass background checks (or) not show up for the required classes or quit the second day," he said. "We need a lot more kids than jobs."

Enrollees must participate in a weeklong skills class, learning to write resumes and manage their paychecks, before they're matched with an employer. Older participants already have gone through the class and some already are working, Strandin said. Now that school is out, more classes are being conducted and matches will be made in upcoming weeks.

Overall, $4.7 million in stimulus funds was given to the local Workforce Investment Board, which is being used to retrain laid-off workers and other adults who are seeking jobs.

BusinessRockford.com

Youth jobs program extended

By Sean F. Driscoll
BusinessRockford.com
Aug 04, 2009 @ 04:44 PM

ROCKFORD — Summer is going to last a bit longer for some youths in the Rockford area.

The Summer Youth Jobs Program was originally set to expire Sept. 30 but has been extended through March. That means the program's participants may have the opportunity to work longer, or it may give those who haven't been placed more time to get a job.

"We had some requests from employers to go beyond the Sept. 30 date, and that's a good thing for us," said Michael Williams, executive director of the Rock River Training Corp., which is administering the program. "Some (youths) got started later than others and didn't get placed until June or July. We want the youth and the employers to get the full benefit of the program."

Funded by $1.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, the jobs program gives a real-world work experience to economically disadvantaged youths age 16 to 24 through placement with local employers and job-readiness classes. The program was only meant to last the summer but was extended after the state got a waiver from the U.S. Department of Labor to keep spending the funds through the spring.

About 1,000 youths applied for the program when it was announced in the spring; about 500 were determined to be eligible. Of those, 413 were enrolled, and about 180 are now at work.

At first, nearly 400 jobs were believed to be available from local employers; Williams said many opportunities that existed in the spring were eliminated or otherwise filled by employers during the program's startup. Rock River staff are now contacting those companies to see whether they have any opportunities for later this summer or beyond.

WIBC – INDY'S NEWS CENTER

Stimulus-Funded Youth Jobs Program at Halfway Point

By Eric Berman
7/13/2009

Indy's first large-scale summer jobs program in years is at the halfway mark.

The Indianapolis Private Industry Council lost federal funding for youth jobs several years ago. This year's stimulus package provided $3.6 million to revive the jobs program for 600 teenagers and young adults. Along with jobs with 48 area employers, they're receiving skills training and educational opportunities.

IPIC plans to assess what YouthWorks Indy accomplished after it ends next month, tallying how many participants land fulltime jobs or their GED's.

Federal law sets a benchmark success rate of 60 percent, but IPIC president Brooke Huntington says she expects a figure closer to 70-or-80 percent. She says some workers have already interviewed for fulltime jobs.

IPIC has kept $400,000 in federal money in reserve to run a smaller program next summer.

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Posted: 15 Jul 2009 06:55 AM PDT
WHAS 11.com (subscription) - Louisville,KY,USA

Federal stimulus money brings jobs to 5,000 Kentucky teens and young adults

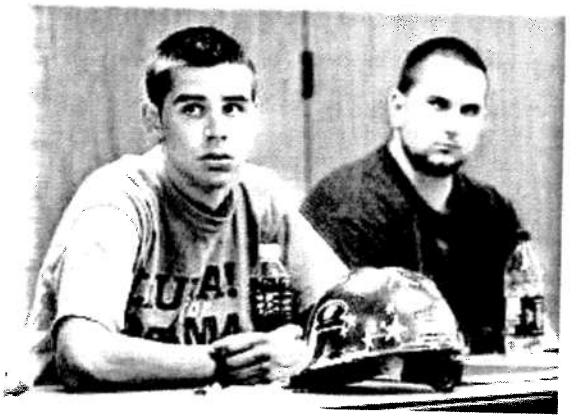
04:13 PM EDT on Tuesday, July 14, 2009

(WHAS11) - More than 5,000 Kentucky teens and young adults are getting summer work, all thanks to stimulus money.

Kentucky's summer youth employment program is receiving $15-million federal stimulus money. The program is targeted at low income people, school dropouts, runaways or foster children pregnant or parenting.

The program runs through September 30th.

Training in trades to help local youths



Ken McGagh/Daily News staff

Keith Burns, 18, of Milford, left, and Kevin Bergeron, 20, of Framingham are participants in a six-week federal stimulus-funded building trades career exploration program at the New England Laborer's Training Center in Hopkinton.

By David Riley/Daily News staff

Milford Daily News

Posted Aug 06, 2009 @ 10:33 PM

HOPKINTON —

If not for a program where he's training in building trades, from welding to carpentry, Jonathan Albino said he might have spent the summer "thinking negative ... thinking I wasn't going to go anywhere."

Now, he said, he knows better and he hopes to pursue a career as a laborer or plumber.

Albino, 18, of Marlborough, is one of about 20 young men in a six-week construction career exploration program at the New England Laborers' Training Center in Hopkinton, funded in part by federal stimulus funding.

"They have helped me open my eyes," Albino said during a break in the program yesterday.

Keith Burns, 18, of Milford, said because he is dyslexic, hands-on training was especially helpful. Without the program, he said, he'd probably be trying to find a job, "which is hard because the economy stinks."

The Metro South/West Regional Employment Board and organized labor launched the program this summer. Organizers said they recruited participants - ages 18 to 24, most of whom meet low-income guidelines - from local Boys and Girls Clubs, schools, housing authorities and job-training programs.

Laborers' Training Center instructors and workers in about 14 trades are giving students hands-on instruction in laying pipe, operating machinery, bricklaying, roofing and other areas of expertise.

Trainees visited iron workers in South Boston, carpenters in Millbury and painters in Roslindale, and also took workplace safety instruction.

"All the trades came together to just try to expose these kids to the construction industry, the different fields and opportunities out there," said Sean Perry, a Training Center instructor.

About $75,000 in federal stimulus cash covers roughly half the program's cost. Trade workers donated time and space to cover the rest.

"If it wasn't for the laborers, this never would have happened," said Bob Bower, political director for the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern, D-3rd, visited the program yesterday to talk with participants. He called it a success story in the federal stimulus plan.

"You getting into a permanent job is one of the ways to get this economy going again," McGovern said.

The training initiative has a short-term benefit in giving workers skills that could help them land jobs as stimulus cash jump-starts infrastructure projects over the next two years, McGovern said. In the long term, participants can use these skills throughout their careers, he said.

"When you get through this, at the end of the day, you've got a leg up," McGovern told the trainees.

Still, organizers acknowledged how difficult the job market is. Training might give the students an advantage, but an instructor warned them not to take setbacks personally.

The program also touches on drug and alcohol awareness, managing finances, resume writing, basic math and other essentials it takes to land a job.

"You have to show up on time, you can't miss days and you have to be ready to work," Perry said.

Case in point: Van transportation to the program is available at 7 a.m., but drivers leave behind anyone who hasn't shown up by 7:02.

Several trade unions have committed to keep apprenticeship slots open for qualified trainees. That kept almost every participant who signed up coming back, said Sylvia Beville, executive director of the Metro South/West Regional Employment Board.

"The kids that started are completing," she said. "That's almost unheard of in this kind of program."

Organizers hope to keep the project going next summer.

Albino heard about the program while studying for his GED in the Future Skills Institute program at the Boys & Girls Club of MetroWest.

He said he especially valued learning new math and writing skills. "You need that for the rest of your life," he said.

Clayton Watts, 24, of Marlborough, said he's been studying electrical work at the Porter and Chester Institute in Westborough. The Training Center program exposed him to a new range of skills.

Watts said he's trying to stay out of trouble this summer, and particularly liked learning about working in a team.

"I'm just trying to get my foot in the door," he said.

(David Riley can be reached at 508-626-3919 or driley@cnc.com.)

The Boston Globe

Job search is frustrating teens

Downturn hurts chances for many

By Meghan Irons, Globe Staff | July 6, 2009

Teens in the city's low-income families long for summer - but not to laze about on the beach or take trips to far-off destinations. When July comes, they want a job.

This is supposed to be a good year for them. Boston has $8 million in the kitty, thanks to an infusion of $1.3 million in federal stimulus money. That means 1,200 more people ages 14 to 24 will be hired this summer. But there are still more applicants than jobs.

The obstacles are greater this summer, with the number of jobs overall dwindling and unemployment numbers rising. Because of this, advocates say, thousands of teens have struggled to find work.

Here are some of their stories.

Jonathan Carvalho

In the past few months, Jonathan Carvalho has applied at two Walgreens stores, two CVS stores, a Stop & Shop, a Best Buy, and a handful of clothing and food stores.

The 18-year-old Dorchester resident leaned on his friends and his parents - both former managers at retail stores - to get interviews, and filled out applications online.

Still, he can't find work.

This is new for Carvalho. Last summer he had no trouble finding a job "cleaning up and helping out" at an office in Roxbury.

"There are no jobs for anybody that doesn't have a college degree or anybody in their teens," he said. "Most stores, they say they have jobs, but they don't want to give jobs to that group - the people who don't have a college degree."

Carvalho's job troubles began months before he graduated from Wakefield High School. He asked a friend to help him get hired at the Stop & Shop in his neighborhood. Carvalho got a meeting with the store's manager, but no job.

He has enrolled at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Boston, which is near the Cambridgeside Galleria. He tried to find work in the mall. But he's had no luck.

"I feel frustrated," he said. "People don't believe that we want jobs. They think we want to hang on the streets. But that's not it. We would rather have jobs than hang on the streets."

Alexis Martin

Alexis Martin, 16, said she used to be "really, really bad" - drinking, running away from home, and staying out all hours.

Last year, she said, she got out of a program for troubled juveniles and then got a job. It straightened her out.

"It's kind of something to keep me out of trouble, to keep me on task and not forgetting who I actually

am," said Martin.

"Now I'm getting good grades," she said. "I work. I don't hang around anybody anymore."

Trying to find work, the wait, the worry - it comes with the territory, Martin said.

"I'm used to signing up and stuff like that," said Martin, who is getting help from Action for Boston Community Development Inc., which places low-income youths in jobs. "I'm kind of immune to it."

Martin said working gives her independence and purpose, and relieves the burden on her grandmother, who is her primary caretaker.

Under income guidelines for a child to qualify for ABCD's job program, a family of four must earn $28,605 or less.

Martin has applied for three jobs, including at the South Boston Action Center, where she works during the school year. She's confident she'll work again this summer. "I will," she said, with gusto. "I always do."

Martin Oliver
There was a tinge of excitement in Martin Oliver's voice.

At last, he landed a job interview. He was sure it was a done deal: "I've got a job," he said.

But he would still have to compete with thousands of other young people vying for work this summer.

The 18-year-old from Dorchester has been looking for summer work for a few months. "I don't know what the problem was," he said. "They just haven't been calling me back."

For the past two years, Oliver has worked at the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, his wages paid by the Boston Youth Fund, which finds jobs for 15- to 17-year-olds.

But then he turned 18, and the jobs stopped. "I aged out," he said.

He has since applied to a few places. Only one - the Design Studio for Social Innovation in Chinatown - called him back.

"I'm going to college next year, and I'd rather have some money in my pocket," said Oliver, who plans to attend Wentworth Institute of Technology in the fall. "That is why it's such a big thing to get a job, so I can have some money when I get to college."

On interview day, he arrived early at Ruggles Station to make the 1 p.m. appointment. "The hardest part about finding summer jobs," he said, "is finding people that are just hiring."

After months of trying, Martin finally got the job.

Meghan Irons can be reached at mirons@globe.com

CITY OF BOSTON · MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Mayor
Thomas M. Menino

For Immediate Release
contact:
Tuesday, July 7, 2009

For more information

Press Office, 617-635-4461

*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

Mayor Menino Lauds John Hancock, The Boston Globe and Boston University for Expansion of Boston's Largest Corporate Summer Jobs Program for Teens

"MLK Summer Scholars" Will Benefit More Than 600 Boston Youth, a 20% Increase
Partners HealthCare Joins as Latest Supporter

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Police Commissioner Ed Davis will join John Hancock Chairman and CEO John D. DesPrez III, Boston Globe Publisher P. Steven Ainsley and Boston University President Dr. Robert Brown at Boston University's Marsh Plaza to kick off the second year of a teen summer jobs collaboration.

John Hancock, the Globe and Boston University have worked to expand summer employment opportunities with Hancock providing more than $1,000,000 in funds, the Globe contributing organizational support and in-kind services and Boston University providing the educational setting and resources to support more than 600 jobs throughout the city – 100 jobs more than last year. Partners HealthCare has become a new supporter. MLK Summer Scholars is the largest corporate supporter of summer jobs in the city this year, and is believed to be the largest corporate program of its kind in the country.

WHAT: Kickoff of MLK Summer Scholars Summer Jobs Initiative

- Mayor and Police Commissioner to discuss jobs/leadership initiatives
- John Hancock CEO and Boston Globe Publisher to share role of corporations and details of MLK Summer Scholars
- Boston University President to discuss commitment to educate and prepare youth
- Teen participant to share personal experience

WHO: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

John DesPrez, President and CEO, John Hancock Financial Services
P. Steven Ainsley, Publisher, The Boston Globe
Dr. Robert Brown, President, Boston University
Rhonda Edwards, summer jobs program participant
Approximately 200 teens who will be participating

WHEN: Wednesday, July 8, 2009
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Boston University's Marsh Plaza, 735 Commonwealth Ave
(If Rain: The Backcourt, BU's George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave.)

The Boston Globe

Student jobs program kicks off

MLK Scholars to employ 600 at 80 businesses

Talia Sanchez and friend Kassandra Hernandez (rear) attended the kickoff of the MLK Summer Scholars program at Boston University yesterday. (Jonathan Wiggs/Globe Staff)

By Matt Collette
Globe Correspondent / July 9, 2009

Rhonda Edwards saw her future differently three years ago. For the typically quiet girl, college seemed an unreachable goal.

Now the 18-year-old graduate of the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science in Roxbury is headed to St. Francis College in New York, and credits her success to a citywide jobs program for high school students.

"I realized that being shy doesn't get you anywhere when you need to get something done," Edwards said.

After spending two summers working for the Institute of Contemporary Art, she has big plans.

"When I grow up, I'm going to be a senator," Edwards said. "And not because of the publicity or the paycheck, but because I'm down for the cause."

City and business leaders yesterday gathered at Boston University for the kickoff of the MLK Summer Scholars program, which employs about 600 Boston students at 80 businesses, including John Hancock Financial Services, The Boston Globe, and the South Boston Boys and Girls Club.

The program, which is providing jobs to 100 more students than last summer, is funded with $1 million from John Hancock, said Carol Fulp, vice president of community relations at John Hancock.

Two hundred students, all wearing yellow T-shirts, attended the program's kickoff yesterday. Students have been hired to work a variety of jobs, ranging from working with children in community centers across the city to performing administrative work in offices.

Robert A. Brown, the president of Boston University, said the program - which brings the students to the school every Friday morning for classes in leadership, personal finance, and finding employment - can help make a college a realistic goal.

"As youth, you look at these universities as ivory towers and ask yourself, 'Do I fit in?' " Brown said in an interview after the event. "And just getting them here for meetings, that's the first hurdle."

Mayor Thomas M. Menino urged students to take advantage of their jobs and learn from the professionals they work with on a day-to-day basis. He told the teens this summer could have a definite impact on their future.

"I don't care where you come from, what language you speak, what language your parents speak, or the grades you get," he said. "You don't have to be on the honor roll. You just have to be a good person and a hard worker."

Teens with jobs are far less likely to get into trouble, said Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis.

He said the summer job program is a complement to ongoing community policing efforts.

"I want to meet all of you, but this is the setting I want to meet all of you in," Davis said. "The more you get involved in business . . . the less I have to do."

P. Steven Ainsley, the publisher of the Globe, which helped organize the program, said working to employ teens is part of the newspaper's public service mission. "This program fits perfectly with the Globe's community mission of responding to the needs of our city's youth," he said.

The program is named after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who earned his doctorate at BU.

"I'm certain Martin Luther King would be proud that we are not only training future workers, but the next generation of civic leaders," said John D. DesPrez, the president and chief executive of John Hancock. ▪

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METRO INTERNATIONAL - BOSTON
Published 20:55, July the 12th, 2009

10,000 summer jobs 'open doors' for kids

Groups rally to create work for Boston youth during down economy

There is finally some good news in Boston on the jobs front — more summer opportunities are available to the city's at-risk youth than last year, in part from an infusion of federal stimulus money.

This month, many of those jobs kicked off for Hub youngsters. Boston's summer jobs program has traditionally been a combined effort by the Boston Youth Fund, the Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. SummerWorks program and the Boston Private Industry Council. Thanks to stimulus dollars, ABCD will offer 2,200 jobs to teens from low-income families compared to the 1,000 jobs offered last year, while a boost in state grants means 275 more jobs through the Boston Youth Fund.

PIC has secured 2,500 jobs and hopes to add 1,500 more. Meanwhile, an initiative in its second year — the MLK Summer Scholars program — will put 600 to work this summer, 100 more than last year. In all, more than 10,000 teens could be put to work between the four programs.

"We are doing very well given the economic circumstances right now," said Christine Wainwright, executive director of the Boston Youth Fund.

Sarah Ortiz, 17, of Dorchester, sees her summer job as a gateway to college and a career in criminal justice. Ortiz will be a senior this fall and is also raising a 20-month-old daughter.

"This is just a big open door for me," said Ortiz, who is working in a home health care training program in Roxbury through ABCD.

Greg St. Martin

The Herald News
Job skills, city park benefit from stimulus

Dave Souza

Rep. Jim McGovern visited Heritage State park to talk about the youth jobs program, from left, Jonathan Ferreira, McGovern, Stephen Wheeler and Jenn Wainwright.

Video: http://www.heraldnews.com/news/local_news/x737358319/Job-skills-city-park-spruced-up-under-stimulus-plan

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By Will Richmond

Herald News Staff Reporter

Posted Jul 06, 2009 @ 08:36 PM

Last update Jul 07, 2009 @ 12:03 AM

Fall River —

After the first full weekend of beautiful weather this summer there were probably few people ready to get back to work Monday. But that wasn't the case at Heritage State Park. Facing the daunting chore of cleaning the park after the three-day Fourth of July weekend, a group of youths eagerly put on gloves and got right to work under Monday's sunny skies.

The work may have been difficult — trash pick-up was followed by hedge trimming and raking — but if they didn't have an opportunity to work at the park, many admitted they would likely be at home, sitting on the couch

watching television.

As the eight youth parks employees were working under the sun, another group of kids sat behind computers in two air-conditioned offices on the fifth floor of the Millennium bcpbank building on Pleasant Street. There they were learning the finer points of interviewing for jobs, customer service and computer skills in the Southcoast Center for Professional Development.

The two scenes are just what U.S. Rep. James McGovern was hoping for when Congress voted, and eventually approved, stimulus money to help support youth jobs.

"This is a good example of the stimulus money at work," McGovern said after talking with two youths working at the park. "The stimulus program is multifaceted, but this part is certainly important, getting young people into jobs for the summer. Without these funds many of these kids are saying they would be home and doing nothing. Now they are getting experience, being mentored and enrolled in programs that give them skills for other jobs. This wouldn't be happening otherwise."

The money benefits the working youths, but the park is also winning out.

Park Supervisor Robert Horton said the eight employees hired through the stimulus program has allowed work to be done that previously couldn't be tackled. The additional work force also allows Horton and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to keep the visitor center open seven days a week, rathen than the one or two days a week it would be open if the park was operated with just Horton and the two DCR summer employees. The extra help also allows for more activities in the park, Horton said.

"People are complimenting this facility, and with the help of these kids we're doing a lot of stuff we'd never be able to do."

Sitting behind the park's service desk 18-year-old Jocelyn Arruda said her summer days would be much different without the her job.

"I'd probably be looking for a full-time job," Arruda told McGovern. "It would be great if this was a full-time job."

Thanks to stimulus funding, 627 youths have been employed throughout the region, said James Caulkins, Bristol County Training Consortium director. He said another 300 youths are on a waiting list seeking employment and that the search is still on for employers who can provide "meaningful jobs" for youths.

Caulkins said that last year when the program relied solely on state funding only 180 youths were employed.

At the Center for Professional Development, youths were not only picking up skills to make them employment-ready, and programs were being introduced to begin a tree restoration project in the city and maintain and enhance a nature trail in the Copicut Forest.

The center's president, Wayne Rego, said 56 youths will participate in the summer program.
McGovern said the success already being seen through the youth work programs should serve as proof that the stimulus program needs to continue next year.

"In my view, we're going to need additional stimulus funds for next year," McGovern said. "We've got to keep people working through these difficult times, stabilize the economy and pay down the debt."

E-mail Will Richmond at wrichmond@heraldnews.com.

The Herald News
Alternative high school students to get a lesson in business

By Will Richmond

Herald News Staff Reporter

Posted Aug 19, 2009 @ 07:34 PM

Fall River —

Along with math and English, students in the city's alternative education programs will soon have an opportunity to pick up some business knowledge.

With the School Committee's approval Monday night, Alternative School Principal Omari Walker has been given the authority to establish two school-based businesses at the alternative school.

Through grants applied for by former teacher Mary Walek, Walker is establishing a print shop at the alternative school on Maple Street and a greenhouse/floral shop at B.M.C. Durfee High School.

Walker said the two projects have been under consideration since 2006 but the concepts took off recently as students participating in the Durfee Academy — a program that allows students to work during the day and take classes in the afternoon — were having difficulty finding employment as the economy soured. He also noted the need to give students skills for entering the workforce after leaving school.

"These kids are dying for jobs," Walker said.

The program is funded by three grants, including $125,000 from the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, $43,000 from the Workforce Investment Board In-school grant and $106,000 from the Workforce Investment Board Out-of-school grant. Mayor Robert Correia, who signs off on grants from the board, said he will approve the money for the initiative.

"I'm pleased this is going to be initiated," Correia said. "It will give students an opportunity for more skills."

Walker said initial plans are for both operations to begin in October, with 75 students from the Resiliency

Preparatory and Durfee Academy employed in the print shop. He said students in the credit recovery program, which provides students behind in academic credits an accelerated program to earn credits, will also use the print shop in the evening. Walker said 50 students will find jobs in the greenhouse/floral shop, including work in woodshops to build items such as window boxes. Students in both programs will be paid minimum wage.

Walker and Durfee Principal Paul Marshall witnessed similar school-based employment programs while on a professional development trip to Portland, Ore., in 2007. While there, Walker said he witnessed a school that ran a Nike store, a doggie day care and a Ben and Jerry's ice cream shop.

"They were able to train kids on-site and send them out to the community once they had faith the students were able to work and have the skills to hold on to a job," Walker said.

Walker said giving kids the skills to enter the workforce is just one of the benefits the program offers. He said he's heard a statistic that young people who worked were more likely to work as adults.

"It's just so important to teach young people the value of working," Walker said. "Not only is it important to show kids they have to work for what they get, it's also about breaking the cycle for many generations that have become dependant. Breaking this cycle is critical for the country."

E-mail Will Richmond at wrichmond@heraldnews.com.

Green jobs place teens in a learning environment

Purchase this photo

Herald News

Mathew Pimental, 20 has created a trail guide to help peope recognize the plants and animal that may be seen on his Nature Trail.

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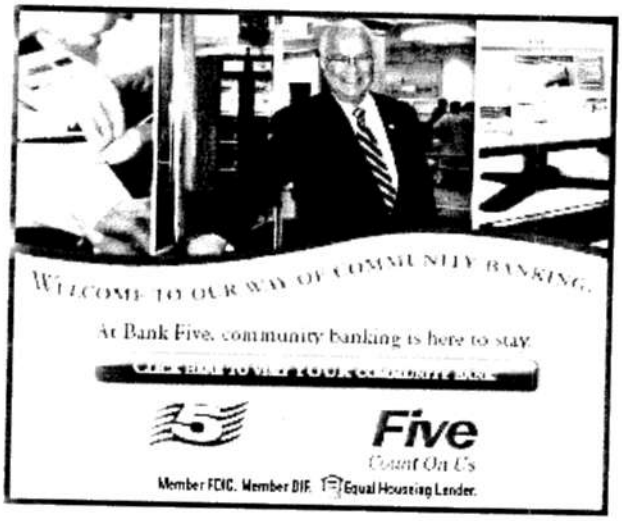

By Jay Pateakos

Herald News Staff Reporter

Posted Aug 20, 2009 @ 08:08 PM

Fall River —

So what is a "green job" anyway?

Well, it's not flipping burgers at a local fast food restaurant, according to South Coast Youth Corps coordinator Linton Harrington.

Harrington, along with six hand-picked SouthCoast teenagers, have forgone typical summer jobs in order to help the Youth Corps, part of the Trustees of Reservations, provide teens with summer jobs that supply them more than just spending money.

The teenagers — who come from Somerset, New Bedford and Fall River, among others — have painted buildings, cleared walking trails to harvested organic vegetables, tested the quality water flowing into the Fall River drinking water supply, rebuilt stone walls and planted trees. They work 40 hours a week, all summer long.

"This program offers in-depth learning and leadership opportunities for teens interested in outdoor environmental work. While there's been a lot of talk of green jobs, the Youth Corps program is delivering them to urban youth who don't have that many job opportunities," said Harrington. "These students are getting a taste of what professional ecologists, land managers and environmental scientists do, getting their hands dirty and feet wet, and I mean that literally with all the rain we've had all summer."

Harrington said while they have a few indoor activities like tool cleaning and repairing, most of the work — rain or shine — has been done outside.

The aim behind the Youth Corps Program is to channel the energy of youth into green projects that build leadership skills and community involvement. Harrington said many of the graduates of the program have gone on to environmental science, natural resource management and other green careers. He said while the work the students perform can be demanding, they grow an appreciation in the value of the work they do and of a steady paycheck. Students are paid $8.50 per hour for 40 hours per week, with funding coming from the Island Foundation and the United Way of Greater New Bedford.

Mathew Pimental, 20, of New Bedford, not only spent the last two years as an employee of the Youth Corps

summer program, but spent additional time throughout the year at the Fall River BioReserve clearing out a 1-mile path as part of his New Bedford Regional Vocational High School junior and senior projects. Like many of the students, Pimental said his friends who chose the fast food employment realm thought his days were spent doing simple things like cutting grass.

"They think this job is easy, that I can just come home and hang out, but a lot of the things we do, it's like lab work," said Pimental. He and fellow Voke student Brittany Gentilucci have been part of the school's environmental tech law program. Pimental said he plans to study environmental law in college.

"It's kind of neat to be able to help restore these old properties back to the way they were, to see the kind of impact your work has had," said Erin Feeney, 18, of New Bedford. "I was a lifeguard the last two years, and this is so much better in working with nature and being outside the city limits."

"I've been exposed to so many different tools I had never had experience with before, starting with a lawnmower. That's always something my dad did," said Chelsea Sandner, 17, of Somerset. "It showed me that there are a lot of nice places out here, places few people know about, even though most of my friends felt I was just picking daisies all summer."

Part of the program involves the students taking younger students on nature trail walks and educating them to the wonders of the outdoors and the animals that call it their home.

"I learned a lot of different things about plants and animals, a lot about vernal pools and how to build bog bridges, and not only about many types or tools but how to use them," said Gentilucci, of tools that included chainsaws. "I found it neat to be working with little kids and teaching them about things in their own backyard. They kept telling me that they loved it out here and were going to come back."

Chelsie LaFountain, 17, a Bristol County Agricultural High School student, said her experience at Youth Corps mirrors her course load at Aggie's natural resource program, which that involves nature education, public relations and more.

"It's a reward to see all the beautiful properties the trustees own and how we are helping to take care of them," said LaFountain. "You stay in the city long enough, you forget that there are beautiful places like this that exist around us that we never see."

Harrington said in addition to the Fall River site, which includes 14,000 acres, 500 of which are run by the trustees, students also do work at farms in Westport and Dartmouth and in other locations.

"This is a way for these students to learn so much about nature and the world around them, opportunities they don't get flipping burgers," said Harrington. "It helps them to see what real work is about and the commitment it takes to see things through."

E-mail Jay Pateakos at jpateakos@heraldnews.com.

Posted: 16 Jul 2009 04:58 AM PDT

Whitman & Hanson Express - Hanson,MA,USA

WH gets funds for summer school

Written by Meaghan Glassett

Wednesday, 15 July 2009 10:26

Whitman-Hanson Regional High School has received a grant, through federal stimulus funds, to help at risk students pay for summer classes.

The American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009 has given the district $70,000 to pay for two summer classes for at risk students and to provide them with employment opportunities.

"These funds allow us to take 40 at risk kids and give them a boost during the summer with employment opportunities and academic make-up," coordinator Brian Scully said.

"With the downturn of the economy, kids that have to go to summer school have trouble paying for it," he said.

Scully said the benefit of the program is that it's a mixture of academic training and paid and non-paid internships, as well as meeting a variety of counseling needs through the Workforce Investment Act.

From June 1 through Sept. 14 the students who are participating in the Workforce Investment Act will be paid minimum wage for their work.

There are two programs available. The first program is for students who were freshman and sophomores last year who are in need of credit recovery status (these are students who have been identified by guidance counselors). The second program is for night school students who are most likely juniors and seniors. These students are often already taking night classes. Each student had to qualify for the program.

Counselor Amy Burns said after she recruited the night school students on Friday, they were "flying through the doors" Monday morning.

"There are a couple of students who are very excited to be a part of the program, and that excitement, as a teacher, is not something you see everyday," Scully said.

The first part of the grant is primarily for Whitman Hanson youth, and the second component is for people in the coverage area of the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board.

"From these programs we have kids getting scholarships to go to two summer school classes in an area of need that their guidance counselors have advised and also have a work experience that they get paid minimum wage for," Scully said.

The students will be supervised by three college students and also five faculty members.

The students will be working on the school district facilities around town.

On Monday the students were busy weed whacking and landscaping the rock wall that is by the softball field and tennis courts at the high school.

They have also removed trees that were overgrowing the water treatment system at the Hanson Middle School, Scully said.

The stimulus funds came into the district from a partnership with the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board.

When President Clinton was in office he created a workforce investment channel for funding training so people could work themselves through barriers, Scully said.

"This is stimulus money that is coming in from channels using existing partnerships that give kids the leg up during the summer," he said,

Scully said the district was able to take advantage of the opportunity because of all the good work everyone in the district has done since day one.

"Everything that Georgia Clancy [Community Service Coordinator] who recently retired, has done is what made this program possible," he said. He also credited Superintendent Ruth Gilbert-Whitner and Patricia Leverone and the guidance counselors for their hard work.

Scully said what is great about the program is that for the summer they are really able to meet the needs of each individual student.

"This would not have happened if it weren't for how willing everyone was to pitch into what was going on," Scully said.

Through the program, the district is able to provide buses to all summer school kids. The program allows grant money to go directly toward the students that qualify, and fringe benefits are available to all students. Scully said they were also able to hire a counselor with the money, giving all students access to a counselor.

"We hope this is something, when all is said and done with the summer program, they say this program works in Whitman-Hanson," Scully said.

Billy Fish, a staff member, said that many of the students that have been unsuccessful during the school year, and may have not been motivated or had behavior issues, are really engaged and they are buying into the program.

The Barnstable Patriot

Summer youth job program builds skills, community

Written by Kathleen Szmit

Town gets pick-me-up through grant-funded work program

If you've noticed that various locations around Hyannis have been given a bit of sprucing up this summer, thank the kids taking part in the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Implemented through the Job Training and Employment Corporation (JTEC) with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the local Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) has provided kids from the local area with paying jobs for the summer.

Since the program began July 6, 80 youths aged 14-24 have been taught valuable employment skills aimed at helping them obtain and keep jobs. They have put those skills to work on various jobs throughout the community.

According to Base Coordinator Steve Moynihan, who works with the program through Barnstable High School, jobs have included working with the Town of Barnstable's Department of Public Works on a number of projects (mulching, landscaping, trash pickup), as well as the Barnstable Senior Center and the Barnstable Schools, where youth employees helped with moving schools and building a new wall in the Cobb Astro Park at BHS.

Kathleen Szmit photos

HELPING HAND – Barnstable High School student Lisa Mercurio gets set to wheel another load of bark mulch to the Village Green in Hyannis as part of her employment with the Summer Youth Employment Program.

"They get 20 hours of job training and employability skills before incorporating that training into the job sites they're working with," said Moynihan. "Then they're assessed on those skills."

At the conclusion of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion that they can show to future employers.

"It's fun to see the kids in transition over the summer," said Moynihan, "as they learn their skills, learn their jobs, and get comfortable with their work teams. In a short amount of time I've seen some incredible growth."

A key component of the program involved matching kids with appropriate jobs. While there were changes made, Moynihan noted that most of the kids have enjoyed their jobs.

"The people that are running this at the high school worked really hard to get good placements, to place these kids in the best work situations," he said. "Overall most kids have really enjoyed the friendships with kids on their teams, getting to know kids they didn't know before, and making money."

The participants, who had to meet certain financial or academic requirements, earned $8 an hour for their work.

Retired Barnstable schoolteacher Len Gobeil, who also works for the town manager's office and is a supervisor for the SYEP, appreciated how the town has worked with the program.

"They have gotten a tremendous amount of support from the Dept. of Public Works," he said. "Especially Joe Marshall."

In order to help the kids get their work done, the DPW has made deliveries of bark mulch to the Village Green and Aselton Park, and supplied flowers to the Maritime Museum and the Gary Brown Boat Ramp.

In turn, projects are getting completed that the DPW might have had difficulty getting to due to decreased staff in the wake of budget cuts.

"The amount of people working with [Marshall] has been reduced," said Gobeil. "All of a sudden to have an additional 40-50 kids to work has made a difference."

Moynihan hopes it will make a difference for the kids in the program as well.

"Hopefully these kids will learn what it takes to get a job and keep a job, and transfer these skills to another job," he said.

Now in their fourth week of the six-week program, Moynihan said the kids are enjoying seeing the fruits of their labor.

"The kids have taken pride in what they've done," he said. "There is a sense of 'this is ours. This is what we've done.' Hopefully that will carry over."

SouthCoastToday.com

New Bedford youths give Buttonwood Park a much-needed face-lift

Photo by PETER PEREIRA

By **PHIL DEVITT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
August 12, 2009 2:00 AM

NEW BEDFORD — Buttonwood Park is in bloom.

City students are spending the summer pruning, planting, watering and raking, slowly restoring life and color to long-neglected sections of the park off Route 6.

Under YouthBuild, a program that helps young people from low-income families develop job skills, they are restoring spots inside and along edges of the park that are overgrown with poison ivy and other non-native, invasive plants.

It's a messy job but, for 19-year-old Marco Miranda, it is a confidence booster and a career prospect. "I'm digging out all the roots, and at the end of the day I think, 'Wow, I can't believe I did all that,'" Miranda said after an afternoon spent clearing brush off the zoo fence on Brownell Avenue.

"It's a good experience. Maybe one day I'll be a landscaper. I know I've got the skills."

Casey Mach, 19, said the project has brought her closer to nature and given her purpose.

"It makes me feel more connected to everything that's going on around me," she said. "When you're outdoors all day, you get to see and do a lot of different things. It makes me feel pretty good."

The Friends of Buttonwood Park, a nonprofit group of park stewards, received a grant from the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance to restore the landscape and, with YouthBuild's help, is seeing the proposal through.

Students work at the park from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. They brave all sorts of weather, except driving rain and thunder, said Gloria Williams, program director for YouthBuild New Bedford.

The project started several weeks ago with a dozen workers and 10 more joined along the way. The students, who range in age from 18 to 24, are each paid $240 a week with economic stimulus money provided by the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board. It is scheduled for completion in early September.

Williams said YouthBuild has a long history with Buttonwood Park. This summer's project just happens to be more ambitious and the transformation more visible.

"Walking through the park this year, I was just amazed at the lack of upkeep the park is actually getting," Williams said. "Only two city employees mow the lawn, and the rest of the upkeep is done by the Friends of Buttonwood. They're looking for younger blood to help."

Friends member Richard Leary said the group hosts an annual spring cleanup day but needs year-round volunteer support. Praising YouthBuild's efforts, he said he has noticed a "dramatic difference" in the park's landscape.

"Without them, none of this would have happened," he said.

Several weeks into the cleanup, students are starting to see the fruits of their labor.

On Court Street, limbs, brush and poisonous flora once covered the Buttonwood Brook buffer garden. Those eyesores are now gone, replaced with a garden of 2,500 colorful flowers and plants on a bed of fresh mulch next to the Buttonwood Park greenhouse. A few days after being planted, five shrubs ranging in value from $20 to $50 were stolen, according to environmental supervisor Jim Sears, professor emeritus of botany at UMass Dartmouth. He said the thefts were "disheartening" but that increased police surveillance of the area has helped.

The fence along the west side of the zoo, once overgrown with vines and branches, is visible again after the group spent a few days yanking out stubborn weeds in 80-degree heat. "Before, you couldn't see where the park ended and the zoo took over," Williams said.

In the project's final weeks, the students will remove vines from the corner of Hawthorn Street and Brownell Avenue and make a walking path to the east side of the zoo.

After spending so much time at Buttonwood, they recognize the value of city parks, which were created to get residents away from the stress of industrialized society, Sears said.

"Most appreciate that they are doing something important and are contributing to their community," Sears said.

The Greater New Bedford Youth Council, a division of the Workforce Investment Board, employs teens in a variety of projects that are supposed to prepare them for successful careers but also decrease the dropout rate and have educational value.

While the Buttonwood project is a learning opportunity for the students, Williams said she hopes it means just as much to passers-by who have misconceptions about city youths.

"I encourage people to see what's happening here. These kids are out every day, working hard in pits of poison ivy, pulling vines and picking up trash, all to give the park new life for people to enjoy."

SouthCoastToday.com

New Bedford's 'Green Brigade' celebrates summer job program

ShareThis

By **DON CUDDY**
doncuddy@s-t.com
August 19, 2009 2:00 AM

NEW BEDFORD — More than 100 youths gathered for a cookout in Hazelwood Park Monday to celebrate the successful conclusion of their summer jobs.

"We've had a great summer doing green projects throughout the city," said Carl Alves, director of PAACA, which partnered with the Northstar Learning Center to run the program, known as the Green Brigade.

"The kids grew things, cleaned things and painted things. They also planted the world's largest raised pumpkin bed, 1,200-foot, at Gifts to Give on Cove Street," he said.

Participants, ages 14 to 16, were paid $8 an hour, 25 hours per week, with money from the federal government's stimulus package. For most of them, it was their first job.

Juan Sanchez, 16, of New Bedford said the experience had been valuable. "I met a lot of new people and I felt like I was doing something good for the community," he said.

"It was a great opportunity for our kids to give back and also to learn about sustainability," school Superintendent Portia S. Bonner said. "They are very proud of the produce they were able to provide from their garden at Trinity."

Jean Fox of the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, which oversaw the distribution of the funds, said the whole experience had been rewarding.

"You try to make sure that when you give out money the programs have a lasting impact, and this one clearly did. The kids totally got the green bit. Sustainability is now a part of their vocabulary."

Posted: 27 Jul 2009 05:22 AM PDT
Berkshire Eagle - Pittsfield,MA,USA

Stimulus dollars put youths on task

By Sophie Maguire, Berkshire Eagle Staff
Updated: 07/25/2009 07:31:49 AM EDT

Saturday, July 25
PITTSFIELD -- Federal stimulus money -- $118,267 -- has put 70 low-income youths to work for the summer in Berkshire County.

The program is placing "money into the pockets of the youth," according to Heather Shogry, Youth Director of the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board Inc., an organization that provides educational opportunities to both employers and employees in the Berkshires.

The primary focus is on "workplace readiness," or teaching youths discipline, responsibilities, and work ethic to show young people how to be successful employees.

The youths are at work at a variety of jobs, ranging from restaurant jobs to environmental projects.

At the South Berkshire Educational Collaborative, in association with Mount Everett Regional High School, kids are working at a fish hatchery under the direction of two environmental scientists.

At Hillcrest Educational Centers in Pittsfield, the jobs include receptionists and technician aides at a dentist's office.

Through the Adams Youth Center Inc., young people have been placed in various jobs -- from bussing to serving -- at restaurants.

In addition to those listed above, other organizations have received a share of the stimulus funds to provide jobs for youth: The Corporation for Public Management, and the Lenox and North Adams public schools.

The youth who were selected had to be income-eligible, meaning their families live at or below the poverty line. Their ages range from 14 to 24; they were placed in jobs based on their interests and what jobs were close to their homes. For some youths, their employment started in June and for others it started in July. Their terms of employment last 4 to 6 weeks.

The federal stimulus money pays their wages. The program puts money into the hands of youth, builds their interest in becoming part of the workforce, and pumps money into the local economy, since the kids will spend their wages within the community.

The employers were chosen by the Regional Employment Board's Youth Council Proposal Committee.

The funds come from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and then cascades through various offices starting with the U.S. Department of Labor, then the state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Workforce Investment Boards, before it's finally distributed to county organizations, such as the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, and into the youths' paychecks.

There is little hope for another round of this federal stimulus funding next summer, but Shogry said there are other ongoing state-funded youth employment programs which have been in existence for multiple years.

Press Release

Stimulus Dollars At Work At An Amphitheater Of Their Own Making, 30 Youths Graduate From... Gasoline Alley?

This summer, over 30 at-risk young people participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program, funded by federal stimulus dollars, at the Gasoline Alley Foundation. In the face of violence and discrimination, the kids have found a sense of community and self-worth as they participated in green, sustainable job creation. On Friday, August 21, 2009, the youth will participate in a small graduation ceremony and celebration in an outdoor amphitheater that they built during their two months in the program. The Gasoline Alley Foundation is a non-profit organization that incubates small, sustainable and socially conscious businesses, offering them both space and development support.

Gasoline Alley is where I incubated my business, Social(k), and with it running smoothly, I had a chance to give something back. Little did I know how much I would learn from the young men and women.

The kids have really risen to the occasion

They are really getting it. They are getting the idea of sustainability and not just throwing things out. And they are

bringing these ideas home to their families.

She told me that before this summer, he never helped out around the house. Now, she said, it is amazing. He is always doing something and fixing something. And she said it is because of this place.

Many of the Gasoline Alley kids are the kids who were the hardest to place, who we didn't think we could get a placement anywhere. But now these same kids are showing up for work every single day with a smile on their faces

They have bonded as a family and because the environment is so supportive

They have really been able to open up to their supervisors, who then can help them with other issues in their lives outside of the job.

This is the way Gasoline Alley is supposed to work. When everything is clicking, you just get it all

These kids are just the beginning.

Springfield, MA (PRWEB) August 18, 2009 -- Flowers springing from toilet seats. An outdoor amphitheater out of a junkyard. Inner city kids surrounded by violence building new lives, jobs and businesses.

Over 30 disadvantage youth worked together to turn a dumping site into an outdoor amphitheater.

What does it mean to graduate from Gasoline Alley? It means the crazy transformation of junk into treasure, toxic ugliness into renewal, tough youths into spirited workers with a new commitment to social causes. It means the improbable come true.

Known for years as Gasoline Alley, Albany Street in Springfield, MA is a post-industrial wasteland, pockmarked by huge oil tanks, rusty storage trailers, wrecking companies and abandoned properties. On the upside, it is also home to the Gasoline Alley Foundation, easily recognized by the crushed car turned nose up on the front sidewalk - a fitting icon for a business where reuse, sustainability (and eccentricity) are prized.

Here, funded by federal stimulus money and daily car washes, 30 young men and women ages 14 to 24, placed primarily through the New England Farm Workers' Council, have been participating in a Summer Youth Employment Program. They came for summer jobs, but what they got was the experience of a lifetime, during which they turned a wild, abandoned property into the amphitheater where they will graduate this Friday (August 21, 2009).

The Gasoline Alley Foundation is a non-profit organization that incubates small, sustainable and socially conscious businesses, offering them both space and development support. Its new executive director, Rob Thomas, has reinvigorated the organization, and decided to make it a Summer Youth Employment Program worksite to help expand the foundation further. "Gasoline Alley is where I incubated my business, Social(k), and with it running smoothly, I had a chance to give something back. Little did I know how much I would learn from the young men and women."

"The kids have really risen to the occasion," Thomas explains. "They are really getting it. They are getting the idea of sustainability and not just throwing things out. And they are bringing these ideas home to their families."

Thomas recounts a story of a mother visiting the worksite, and seeing her son sanding old boards that would soon become furniture. "She told me that before this summer, he never helped out around the house. Now, she said, it is amazing. He is always doing something and fixing something. And she said it is because of this place."

Another youth, Thomas said, confided that he felt he had nothing to live for - except this program.

"Many of the Gasoline Alley kids are the kids who were the hardest to place, who we didn't think we could get a placement anywhere. But now these same kids are showing up for work every single day with a smile on their faces," says Lisa Santiago, site supervisor for the New England Farm Workers' Council.

It is not that Gasoline Alley is immune from the world. The kids have continued to experience their share of trouble, including the murder of a family member, an attempted suicide, discrimination, violence and arrests. The difference is, they now have someplace where they are supported and are making positive choices for themselves and their community.

"They have bonded as a family and because the environment is so supportive," explains youth counselor Ashley Anderson of the New England Farm Workers' Council. "They have really been able to open up to their supervisors, who then can help them with other issues in their lives outside of the job."

And the site is perhaps a glimpse of stimulus money at its most effective. Four kids have obtained jobs directly related to their work at the program. One secured a private landscaping job after someone walking by saw the work he was doing on the Gasoline Alley grounds. In addition, green jobs are being created as the foundation expands its reach and continues to incubate new companies. One example is Metal Wood Common Good, which specializes in making furniture and countertops out of discarded or reclaimed building materials.

Job creation, green initiatives, sustainable business and young people with renewed hope and self-confidence. Other companies struggle to meet one or two of these objectives in the life of their business. At Gasoline Alley, they are all taking place over one powerful summer.

"This is the way Gasoline Alley is supposed to work. When everything is clicking, you just get it all," Thomas says, his voice rising with excitement. "These kids are just the beginning."

The Republican

Teenagers learn, earn by holding summer jobs

Thursday, August 20, 2009

By JIM KINNEY

Business writer

SPRINGFIELD - The terraced amphitheater on Albany Street where the Gasoline Alley Foundation will graduate young people from its summer work program on Friday was choked with six years of brush growth before the youth started working.

"We cleared out all that in the first day," said Fabien A. Goffe, 17, one of the young workers.

He pointed to the new benches made from discarded doors and to planters created from discarded toilets. The stepped seating area is lined with discarded floor tiles.

"I think we have a theme here. It's that one person's trash can become another person's treasure," Goffe said.

Robert M. Thomas became executive director of the Gasoline Alley Foundation in March. Thomas also owns Social(k), a company that provides socially-responsible investment options and is based at Gasoline Alley.

The area's name comes from Albany Street's reputation as a home to gas and oil companies, auto repair shops and junkyards. It's become a business incubator that is home to ReStore Home Improvement Center, a company that recycled building materials and provided the doors, toilets and other materials, and other businesses.

And, for this summer, it's been a work site for 30 young men and women ages 15 to 21 employed through the New England Farm Workers Council and earning $8 an hour.

The Regional Employment Board of Hampden County provided summer jobs to 1,982 young people this year, in part because it received $5.1 million in federal stimulus funding of which $3 million will be spent this summer. Those jobs are administered through programs like the New England Farm Workers Council. The federal funding more than doubled the 956 jobs the board provided last year.

Thomas said the summer was a learning experience for everyone. "Some of these kids came in here and they didn't know how to use a hammer," he said. "We talked about finishing a job and doing a job right."

The young people not only finished the amphitheater, but they painted the building, gardened, built furniture and created artwork.

Destiny A. Cooper, 15, said it's the first time she'd touched soil.

"It's good to step out of your comfort zone," she said. "I learned a lot."

She'll start high school at Massachusetts Career Development Institute in Springfield in the fall.

Thomas said he learned that many inner-city young people have to live with violence and limited opportunities. One employee's brother was murdered.

"It's part of their world," he said, "but, they come every day with a smile on their face."

Jim Kinney can be reached at jkinney@repub.com

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By KATIE ARCIERI, Staff Writer(

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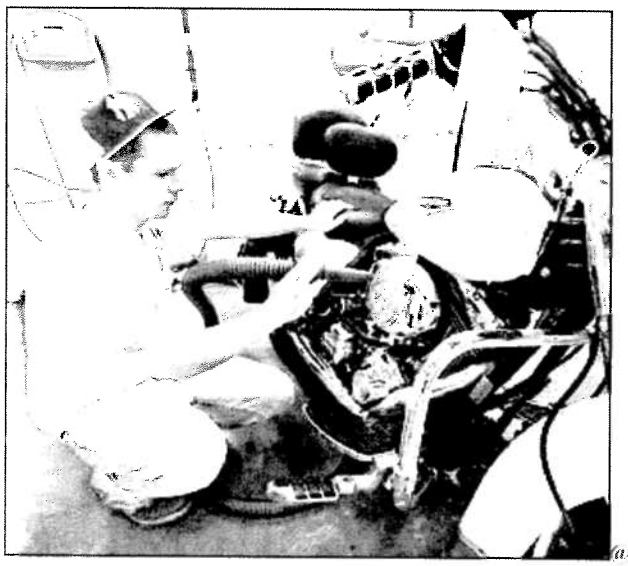

@A(B'$!(C(D9.() "#&"*Bill Hope, 17, works at Harley-Davidson of Annapolis. His summer job came about through an Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. program that utilized federal stimulus money.

Bill Hope loves motorcycles.

The 17-year-old got to work on them all summer at Harley-Davidson in Annapolis thanks to a federal stimulus program.

Hope was one of 70 young people recruited for a county summer employment program supported by stimulus dollars. "Youth Works" is the first county program of its kind in eight years.

"The whole point of this is to give kids work-readiness skills and we're very happy with the outcome of this program so far," said Kirkland Murray, president and chief executive officer of Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp., which funded and organized the roughly six-week program.

Workforce development officials spent $170,618 of stimulus money to support the recruitment and salaries of 70 people ages 14 to 23.

Murray said his agency spent $93,618 on salaries of participants who worked 35 hours a week and were paid between $7.25 and $9 an hour.

He said another $77,000 went to support the salaries of a program director, as well as two staff members who recruited students and 32 job sites, including Anne Arundel Medical Center, Maryland Therapeutic Riding, the city and county Police Departments, and the Joy in Learning Child Care Centers.

One of the recruits who recently finished the program was Nick Parrish, 17, a soon-to-be junior at Old Mill High School.

Parrish said he enjoyed working at World Gym in Glen Burnie - while getting in shape for a future career goal: "I want to be a cop when I grow up," he said.

In the meantime, Nick impressed the World Gym staff.

"He was a great worker, we really enjoyed his company," said Stefanie Lyle, a manager at World Gym.

Nick was an accountable worker who went "above and beyond," Lyle said.

"Now that he's left, everyone misses Nick," she said. "He loved to make smoothies."

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Anne Arundel Workforce Development roughly doubled its federal allocation this year when it received $719,000 in federal stimulus funds.

The dollars are being used to launch new outreach efforts and employment assistance to the jobless.

Most of the federal money allocated to help youth find jobs was spent on the employment program. But $23,265 of it also supported the agency's administrative costs and other workforce-development programs, including the county's one-stop employment centers, Murray said.

About $35,000 of stimulus money will support the youth program next year, he said, adding that he hopes Congress will provide even more federal dollars for it next year.

This year's program seems to be making an impact.

Timothy Trochimowicz, wash/bay supervisor at Harley-Davidson, said Bill Hope worked at the Annapolis bike business last year but was let go when the part-time staff was eliminated.

Hope didn't take the job very seriously then, something he expected of someone Hope's age, Trochimowicz said.

But this summer, Trochimowicz said he was impressed with Hope's performance.

"Before he needed a lot of supervision," Trochimowicz said. "Now I can trust him to do a lot more of that on his own and use my time on doing other things."

Hope said he plans to attend Anne Arundel Community College. Then it's off to tech school to gain skills for working on motorcycles, he said.

One day, he said he hopes to return to Harley-Davidson in Annapolis.

"I love working here," he said.

News from WIN (Workforce Investment Network) for MD

Success Stories

Youth Programs

Green Jobs for Baltimore Youth

Green jobs are the future, and 350 Baltimore youth will get a head start on the green future this summer. Through a $1.1 M federal earmark for summer youth employment (thanks to Senators Mikulski and Cardin, and Congressmen Sarbanes and Cummings), Mayor Sheila Dixon's Green Jobs Youth Corps will put young people to work on the Mayor's priority of creating a cleaner, greener Baltimore.

The Mayor's Green Jobs Youth Corps offers young people six weeks of paid summer work experience, while exposing them to basic workplace skills, an educational program focused on awareness of and preparation for green jobs opportunities, and awareness of why everyone should reduce, reuse, and recycle in their personal lives.

The goal is to introduce young people to green jobs and the career opportunities that this emerging industry will offer. Most Green Jobs Youth Corps members will work in the urban parks system. In partnership with the City's Department of Parks, youth will focus on horticulture, wildlife management, urban forestry, historic preservation, and invasive plant assessment and remediation. In addition to a general introduction to the world of work, basic workplace skills, etc, youth will also broaden their awareness of new green careers related to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

"We're hiring youth who want to be outdoors, who want to learn about green jobs," explained Karen Sitnick, Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. "Although some of the Green Corpsmembers may not have expressed particular interest in this area, part of the career exploration process is learning about what you may not have thought of, or learning what you may not want."

In addition to hands-on work experience, the young people will also attend classroom lessons on sustainable energy and environment-driven services. The Department of Parks has developed a special curriculum, and experts will come talk to them on a regular basis. Topics will range from urban agriculture and what happens to garbage, to botony, green buildings, and reducing their carbon footprint.

"We're very excited to have one of the largest summer youth employment programs we've had in many years – thanks to funding from Baltimore City, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, philanthropic donors, and our wonderful federal earmark," Sitnick said.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps will employ a mix of in-school and out-of-school young people, with another 350 employed in the summer of 2010. Those who really love it in the first year can volunteer to come back the following summer.

"ARRA allows us to extend the age of eligible youth up to 24, so we've chosen to hire an additional 30 team leaders through ARRA funds who are 22-24, and assign them to assist in the green jobs project," Sitnick added. "They too will be exposed to the overall greening of Baltimore, and those older youth will be part of our transition efforts after the summer; we'll help them find employment or training."

"We're becoming more aware of green jobs opportunities in our city," Sitnick concluded. We want to introduce young people as early as we can to our green future."

In addition to the 350 members of the Mayor's Green Jobs Youth Corps, Baltimore will put 7000 youth to work this summer.

Contact:
Karen Sitnick
Director, Mayor's Office of Employment Development
(410) 396-1910
ksitnick@oedworks.com

News from WIN (Workforce Investment Network) for MD

Success Stories

Youth Programs

Susquehanna Workforce Network Reinvents Summer Youth Program

The last time the Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN) ran a subsidized summer youth employment program in Cecil and Harford Counties, today's teens were young children.

"When the Workforce Investment Act came in 10 years ago, we made a decision to focus on dropout youth," Operations Manager Linda Siegel recalled. When it became clear that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) would provide significant funds for summer youth employment programming in 2009, SWN's Youth Council and Youth Advisory Board told the staff to "spend as much of it as possible – all of it, if you can." The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) agreed. (The Youth Council – 20 adults representing youth-serving agencies – and the Youth Advisory Board of 10 older teens advise the WIB on youth programming; the WIB is SWN's decision-making board.)

The region's economy and workforce underwent a major transformation in the past decade. It was clear that SWN needed a new approach to conform to its current workforce development plan, since "everything we do now is predicated on the occupational demand framework and our school systems' goals and objectives," Siegel explained. "We were starting from scratch. We didn't have a subsidized summer framework in place any longer – not since 1999. We did a lot of brainstorming."

SWN Executive Director Bruce England consulted local elected officials for their views on a new summer program to enhance the region's existing initiatives. They concurred with the WIB and the Youth Council: The work experiences had to be value-added, with a strong learning component; youth had to learn and apply valuable skills in demand occupations.

SWN heard in late March that it would receive just over $300 thousand from ARRA, and immediately launched a fast-track RFP process, issuing a Request for Proposals on April 1 with a bidders conference on April 6. Proposals were due May 4, the WIB review committee made its recommendations to the Youth Council the week of May 11, and on May 22 the full WIB chose six of the 14 proposals for funding. Selected vendors attended an orientation on May 29, and the program was on its way.

Vendors' proposals had to focus on demand occupations. They needed to relate to registered apprenticeship programs or other work experience, integrate work-based and classroom learning, or offer academic and occupational linkages targeted to career pathways. Successful applicants demonstrated their capacity to deliver a program of value, and showed a solid understanding of young people from economically disadvantaged families.

SWN recruited 364 youth, of whom 254 were determined to be eligible (ages 14-24, and economically disadvantaged). The ARRA funds allowed only 125 youth to participate in the five-week, minimum-wage program. The vendors wanted those hired to feel that they had earned their slots in the program, so SWN coordinated an interview day on June 6th and invited the young people to interview with vendors for specific jobs. It was "a wild day," Siegel reported. "We held interviews in both counties that day. We didn't have time to do a whole lot of interview prep with the youth, but we emphasized that they needed to work on making a good impression. The interview showed that they really wanted the job; we didn't want to give the impression of an

YouthWorks Summer Jobs Program

Mayor Dixon's YouthWorks Summer Jobs Program needs your help to ensure that every Baltimore City teen that wants to work this summer has an opportunity for meaningful employment. You can help make this happen by joining the 2009 YouthWorks effort to put over 7,000 Baltimore's teens to work.

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) administers the YouthWorks program and we invite you to hire our pre-screened, job ready teens so you can give them the chance to spend a productive summer earning wages and learning about careers in hospitality and tourism!

This year YouthWorks and BACVA have created a special partnership that will double your return on investment and help your organization meets your summer workforce demands.

Here's how: By hiring five (5) YouthWorks participants to work in your organization, you will get 10 employees! And, YouthWorks will match each additional hire with another YouthWorks worker. That's right- you get 2 workers for the price of 1!

It only costs $1,400 to support the wages of one YouthWorks teen for the summer. Beginning June 22 and concluding on July 31, youth will work Monday through Friday, 30 hours per week (lunch hour not included) for the six (6) week session.

You can hire these youth and put them directly on your payroll. However, to make this as easy as possible for you, MOED will accept your tax deductable check made out to the Baltimore City Foundation/YouthWorks* and we will put all your YouthWorks workers on our payroll. We'll take care of making sure all essential employment documents are completed and throughout the summer we'll have our YouthWorks field staff pick up the workers' time cards and deliver their paychecks.

To help you make the best hiring selection, we invite you to attend our YouthWorks Career Fair scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th at the M& T Bank Stadium from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This one-day opportunity gives employers, community organizations, foundations, and city and state agencies a chance to meet and interview hundreds of qualified youth who are ready for employment this summer. Space is limited and the deadline is fast approaching. Please call the Harriett Diles at the YouthWorks Office today, (410) 396-6722 to reserve your spot. Make sure to let Harriett know you are part of the YouthWorks-BACVA Partnership!

We can't say enough about the benefits of supporting the Mayor's YouthWorks program, but here are just a few good reasons why summer jobs are important:

- Employers can help build tomorrow's workforce today
- Youth will develop the work skills that employers require
- Research shows that youth with work experience find jobs sooner after graduation and earn higher wages
- Participation in summer jobs contributes to a safer environment for Baltimore City

To join the YouthWorks-BACVA Partnership and make your summer hiring pledge now, please contact Ms. Alice Cole at the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. Alice can be reached at 410-396-6722 or via email: acole@oedworks.com. Alice and her YouthWorks team will share more with you about your role as a YouthWorks host site and summer mentor.

Please feel free to visit our website at www.oedworks.com.

*Tax-deductible checks made out to the Baltimore City Foundation/YouthWorks can be mailed to:

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development
101 W. 24th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
ATT: YouthWorks Office/Ms. Cole

Sheila Dixon
Mayor,
Baltimore

250 City Hall ·Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-3835 · Fax: 410-576-9425

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2009

CONTACT:
Scott Peterson
443-740-4512

Mayor Dixon Thanks Congressional Delegation for YouthWorks Summer Jobs Support

Baltimore's Congressional delegation, represented by Senator Mikulski, Senator Cardin, Congressman Cummings and Congressman Sarbanes, instrumental in providing federal earmark to support green jobs

Baltimore, MD (July 20, 2009) – Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by Baltimore City Council members Rochelle "Rikki" Spector and Sharon Green Middleton to thank U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, Congressman John Sarbanes and other members of Baltimore's Congressional Delegation for their support of close to 2,500 summer jobs for young people in Baltimore City. Included in those jobs is the Green Jobs Youth Corps – a partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks – which provides six-week YouthWorks projects in "green" work areas such as horticulture, wildlife management and urban forestry.

"I am grateful to the congressional delegation for bringing this much needed relief to Baltimore," said Mayor Dixon. "Green jobs are the future, and 350 young people in Baltimore will get a head start this summer. A new generation of Baltimore residents can begin careers in the green economy long before their peers."

The 2009 YouthWorks program has offered summer job opportunities in private sector and nonprofit locations throughout the city to more than 7,000 youth and young adults, ages 14-24. Support from the business and philanthropic communities, as well as local government and individual citizens, has continued to be strong for this program. However, this year, for the first time in nearly a decade, the federal government is providing funding specifically for summer jobs.

"The federal government has a responsibility to assist local communities in preparing young adults for employment," said Senator Benjamin L. Cardin. "I am particularly pleased to have helped get federal funding for the Green Jobs Youth Corps program and funding that assists in employing some 7,000 young people in summer jobs this year."

-more-

"Summer jobs for young people not only provide income, they lead to increased responsibility and provide training for future careers," said Congressman John Sarbanes. "I know the YouthWorks program will do great things for Baltimore's communities."

This year more than ever the YouthWorks theme, *Summer Jobs are Everyone's Business,* describes the broad support the campaign has received. "Everyone, from the 100 employers who attended our career fair in April to the dozens of city and state agencies showing their active involvement, has pitched in to make this year's program a great success," said Mayor's Office of Employment Development Director Karen Sitnick. "Baltimore is truly a model for other cities to find creative ways to expand opportunities that build our future workforce."

Today's event was held on the grounds of Cylburn Arboretum, one of several locations in the city where YouthWorks participants in the Green Jobs Youth Corps are learning how to "go green" through hands-on experiences and educational programming that introduces them to environmental issues and careers.

Recreation and Parks Director Wanda S. Durden stated, "Through this innovative green jobs program we will train the next generation of park professionals who will make our city a better place to live, work, earn and play."

About YouthWorks:

YouthWorks is operated by the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. YouthWorks participants are well-prepared, multi-skilled, and dependable high school and college students who are eager to work during the six-week program that began June 22, 2009, and will end on July 31, 2009.

For more information about YouthWorks, call 410-396-6722 or visit www.oedworks.com.

# # #

Please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov

A Kid in the Conference Room

The End/Zach

by Zach on Jul.29, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

With only two days left on my summer job, I can say that this was the best summer job I've ever had. (To be fair, I've only had two summer jobs). When we first started at GCPA, I had no idea what to expect. Before I started here, I had never blogged a day in my life. But it turned out to be a wonderful experience. Another highlight of my job was that I got to see firsthand what what goes into preparing to testify before a legislative body. I enjoyed my time at GCPA and I wish it could go on longer. I thank everyone in the office because they all were nice and helpful whenever we needed anything.

Leave a Comment more...

My last day/Chanel

by Chanel on Jul.29, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

We're nearing the end of the YouthWorks summer jobs program and I'm going to miss the people I've met here. Although most YouthWorks students' last day is Friday (July31), my last day is today. I've been selected to do a college tour so I have to leave the program two days early. Before I go, I'd like to tell you what we did this week. On Monday we went to Annapolis to do a mock legislative hearing. We did a lot to prepare for the hearing and sometimes it was overwhelming. Preparing for the hearing was like doing a big school project. My fellow YouthWorks members had to research and present written and oral testimony in opposition of or in support of two legislative bills. The bills that we chose were Senate Bill 903 – High school Assessments Prohibition, and House Bill 205 – School Uniforms. We split up into two groups and created positions to argue in Annapolis in front of an audience consisting of people from the GCPA office. I was nervous, but after I started to speak, I did so well I surprised myself. Now, I know what it feels like to argue for or against a bill. I learned a lot of about everyone here and I shared a lot of laughs and joy on the job. I'm glad I had this opportunity and I wouldn't mind doing it again. It's not often that one comes across a job that employs nice people who care about making the job both worthwhile and fun.

Leave a Comment more...

Meeting up with YouthWorks at Jhpiego

by editor on Jul.29, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Jhpiego, an international health organization affiliated with The Johns Hopkins University and located in Fells Points, employed four YouthWorks students this summer. Here they are meeting with the YouthWorks students from GCPA.

Leave a Comment more...

Oldest Functioning City Hall In America

by Zach on Jul.29, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

As we embarked on another field trip, this one to City Hall, my fellow co-workers and I, had no clue what to expect. As we entered City Hall, we showed the guard our identification and stepped through the metal detectors. Ms. Jeanne Davis, our tour guide, was there waiting for us. We learned that City Hall's corner stone was laid just a couple of years after the Civil War and the building was finished eight years later. We also learned that a young architect named George Frederick was just in his early twenties when he designed the building after submitting the winning design for a competition he saw advertised in the newspaper.

Leave a Comment more...

The Final Days

by Alex on Jul.29, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

One of the greatest experiences of my life is coming to an end. In the blink of an eye, here we are in the last week week of our six-week program. I am very thankful for this great experience, which has allowed me to see a different side of Baltimore through all the "field trips" we took. Every week here, there was an exciting new adventure for all of us. One week was Homewood, another, APL and Peabody. These were all places that I had never been to and to do it as a job was even better. Writing this blog was one of the highlights of this experience because we were able to document all the work we did and places we visited. To capture what we did, we used Flip Cams to show what we did and where we went. Using the Flip Cam has peaked my interest in photography and video. Overall, my time at Government, Community and Public Affairs was fantastic. I can truly say that I loved every minute of it.

Finding Local Fame...

by editor on Jul.21, 2009, under Kids in the News

Recently, we were featured in the Johns Hopkins University Gazette...

Summer Jobs Welcom 250 Local Youth; Students Exposed to Various Career Paths

July 20, 2009
By Amy Lunday
Homewood
Approximately 250 young Baltimoreans are in their fourth week of employment on the Homewood and East Baltimore campuses through Johns Hopkins Institutions' partnership with the city's YouthWorks Summer Jobs Campaign.

The six-week program, administered by Baltimore's Office of Employment Development, is designed to get local youth, ages 14 to 21, working and earning money during the summer, exposing them to a variety of public- and private-sector work settings and helping them prepare for future careers.

The local youth—150 of them at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, about 20 at Bayview Medical Center and 100 at Homewood and other university sites—are working in a variety of departments. Their positions range from administrative and clerical work to assisting faculty and staff with their clinical responsibilities, research studies and technical support duties. The students work from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays; on Friday afternoons, all 250 gather in Shriver Hall at Homewood or Turner Hall in East Baltimore

to hear guest speakers talk about such topics as how to achieve business success and professionalism and how to be good money managers.

At a kick-off event for the YouthWorks program earlier this year, JHU President Ronald J. Daniels called the university's involvement "a terrific illustration of how the city and Baltimore's private employers can work together to address an urgent public need." Daniels said he was proud that Johns Hopkins answered the call to expand the summer jobs program in the midst of a very serious national recession.

"A summer job is something more than a teenager's rite of passage," Daniels said. "It represents that important first entree into the world of work, the promise of career and the opportunity to discover one's passion. It's a ticket to new places, new challenges and personal growth."

Yariela Kerr-Donovan, director of Project REACH/Community Education Projects for the Johns Hopkins Health System, helps administer the YouthWorks program at Johns Hopkins.

"What we're trying to do is to expose young people to the world of work and the health-care industry," Kerr-Donovan said. "We hope they'll be inspired to pursue post-secondary education in health care or pursue a career in this industry that has upward mobility and growth."

GCPA's YouthWorks participants. From left Alex Peters, Kenterra Fisher, Chanel Pierce, Samone Ijoma and Zach Worsley

In the Office of Government, Community and Public Affairs in Fells Point, five teens have been performing a variety of tasks, from stuffing envelopes to assisting with video shoots. They've also been learning firsthand about GCPA's mission of communicating the messages of Johns Hopkins by blogging about their experiences at the divisions they've visited and the people they've met along the way.

"It's not what I thought I'd be doing," said Chanel Pierce, a senior at the Institute of Business and Entrepreneurship High School. "I thought I'd be doing a lot of filing, not working on big

projects and taking field trips. It's the most thinking I've ever done during the summer, but I like it."

Pierce and her co-workers also went behind the scenes to help out at a press conference organized by GCPA and hosted at the School of Education, featuring President Daniels and U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes of Maryland. The event was held to promote a new federal loan program that allows individuals who choose to work in public service for 10 years to reduce or eliminate their qualifying loan and debt.

"My favorite part was the press conference—I'd never been a part of anything like that before," said Samone Ijoma, a junior at Roland Park Country School. "It was really interesting to see all the news people there with their cameras."

According to Baltimore City officials, the goal this year was to be able to offer jobs to 7,000 young people, an increase of more than 20 percent from last year. Everyone who applied for a summer job and met the criteria was offered one, they said.

The students weren't the only ones to benefit from the program, according to Kerr-Donovan. "With the state challenged by a high unemployment rate and most Hopkins departments dealing with a hiring freeze, the six-week program presents a win-win situation for the institution, community, young people and their families," she said.

A closing ceremony for YouthWorks at Johns Hopkins is planned from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, July 31, in Turner Auditorium.

Leave a Comment more...

Music and Books

by Samone on Jul.21, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Inside and outside of school, I am heavily involved in the arts, especially dance. Because of my love for various art forms, I was excited to

tour the Peabody Institute with my YouthWorks group. Peabody is a well known conservatory and preparatory school located in the Mount Vernon neighborhood of Baltimore. When we arrived there for our tour recently, we were met by our tour guide, Richard Selden, director of marketing and communications at Peabody, and Paul Espinosa, library assistant at Peabody. We first walked into a room with high ceilings, a large painting of George Peabody and rare books in display cases. From there, we entered the actual library – home of the Cathedral of Books, which has more than 300,000 volumes and six ornate floors. I was shocked at the number of floors and volumes of books in the library. I love to read and I had never been around so many books before. Unfortunately, the library assistant told us that none of the books could be checked out and that no one besides him could even take books off the shelves. This is to prevent the mishandling of the old books and further preserve their worn covers and pages. The architecture of Peabody's library is spectacular. The railings and balconies in the Cathedral are constructed of cast iron to prevent catastrophic damage in the event of a fire. Besides the Cathedral, we also saw Friedberg Hall, three different concert halls, dance studios, and music practice rooms where kids who are there for the summer, were participating in various programs. For me, the best part of our trip to Peabody was watching the young dancers in their beginner's class and observing the art history of Peabody. Overall, this visit was great for me because I plan to audition and registrar for Peabody's Dance program in the fall.

Leave a Comment more...

... And the Bar Exam is How Long?

by Zach on Jul.15, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Delora Sanchez, assistant director of state affairs, and one of our mentors.

I've made it through the first weeks of my summer job. Overall, it's been fun. One of the highlights of being at GCPA is the time we get to spend with Delora Sanchez, an attorney and assistant director of state affairs at GCPA. She's been talking to us about college and preparing ourselves to be able to defend our opinions. She told us that law school "was no joke," and that

the bar exam was hard and time consuming – three days. As I listened to her, I imagined myself attending college and law school and then studying for the bar.

Leave a Comment more...

Just Another Day at the Office

by editor on Jul.15, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Leave a Comment more...

A Prestigious University Right Here at Home

by Chanel on Jul.15, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

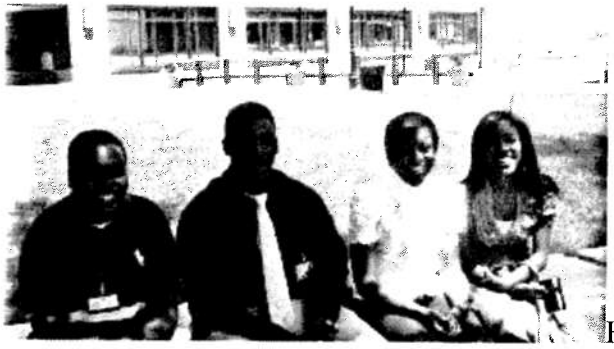
We've lived in Baltimore all of our lives but have never stepped foot on the Johns Hopkins University Homewood campus – until a few weeks ago. The buildings are beautiful and the grounds are very pretty and well-maintained. Our two tour guides (shown here) who are students here, showed us a few of the classroom buildings such as the Whiting School of Engineering. (They're really good at walking backyards). We saw Garland Hall, which houses university President Ronald J. Daniels' office,

and Mason Hall, the main admissions building. We also saw the Milton S. Einsenhower Library and Gilman Hall, the university's flagship building whose historic interior and exterior is nearing the end of a massive renovatiion. As Alex Peters, a junior honors student at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, said after the tour, "I wouldn't mind going to Johns Hopkins."

Leave a Comment more...

Waiting for Our Next Assignment

by Kenterra on Jul.15, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

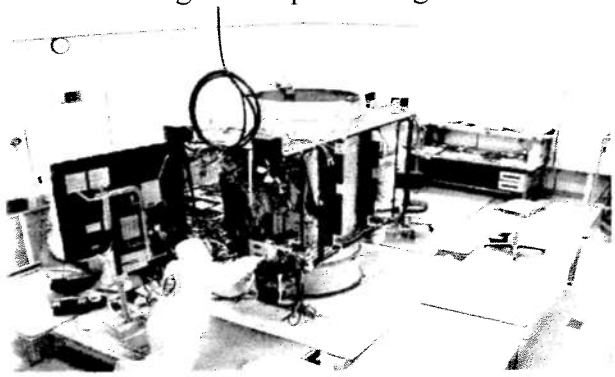
 Here we are outside our office on Bond Street in Fells Point waiting for our supervisors to give us our next assignment.

Leave a Comment more...

Fire and Ice

by Zach on Jul.14, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Our visit to Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Lab was like gaining clearance to enter a top secret army base. In a very short amount of time, we learned about the Messenger and New Horizons space missions. Messenger is a mission to Mercury with an unmanned space shuttle built at APL. Messenger was launched in 2004 and will insert itself into Mercury's orbit in March, 2011. New Horizons is a mission to Pluto with an unmanned space shuttle that also built at APL. New Horizons was launched in 2004, and from what I learned, it will take at least nine years to reach Pluto traveling at the speed of light!



Leave a Comment more...

Touring APL

by Alex on Jul.14, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

APL (Applied Physics Lab) was amazing! Because of the work that they do there, we were not allowed to bring in anything with a picture device on it: cell phones, Flip Cams, etc. Before we could go into the building, we had to be registered. Then, with our special badges, we proceeded to learn about APL's impact on the nation's space program. For me, the most exciting part of the tour was a lab where we saw how prototypes and models are made. A highlight was seeing the kind of work that APL does to help, for example, a disabled veteran who has lost a hand. The tour went by way too fast. There was a lot of walking because the APL complex is huge. I would have liked to have seen more, but I was happy to have just been allowed in to a place where it can take months or even a year or more to get clearance to work there.

Leave a Comment more...

Trading Student Loans for Public Service

by Chanel on Jul.13, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Recently, we traveled to Johns Hopkins' School of Education building to help the News and Information office set up for a news conference on the new federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. The room was cold but full of excitement. We helped by setting up a big JH banner to serve as the backdrop of the news conference. We then settled in to watch the speakers who included current and new college graduates who about their student loan debt. It was interesting to hear them talk about how the new loan program would help them reduce their loans and help them with other financial obligations. For example, they talked about wanting to buy a home or make their rent payments and buy food and pay bills. The stories were all very powerful. One thing I learned from the news conference is the art of public speaking. I know from watching the news conference that it's better not to use utterances like "um" or "like" too much because it can make you seem unprepared. More importantly, we had the pleasure of meeting some very important people, including Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels and Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes. We also got to meet John Berry who was hired by President Obama to be the director of the Office of Personnel Management. Overall, the news conference was a great learning experience.

1 Comment more...

Meeting History

by Samone on Jul.13, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

When I entered the Dean's boardroom in the Broadway Research Building near the Johns Hopkins Hospital, I wasn't sure what to expect, but surprisingly, the long conference table, stately Victorian furniture, and portraits on the wall did not surprise me. I was there with my fellow YouthWorks interns from GCPA on one of the many field trips they have planned for us this summer. On this trip, we were able to watch Jay Corey conduct one of his video shoots to give us an idea of how it's done and how we should be shooting our videos. On this day, Jay was videotaping Dr. David Nichols, vice dean of education at the School of Medicine. As I looked around the quiet room, I noticed that none of the paintings on the wall looked like me. Every one of them was of a white male over the age of 30. Initially, I thought to myself, why are you surprised? A few seconds later, Dr. Nichols walked in the room. I wasn't sure how he would respond to seeing five high school students sitting in his boardroom. He probably does not see that very often. We all introduced ourselves as Jay and Matt Palmer from the GCPA office

prepared for the interview by setting up lighting, moving furniture and testing their sound system. While all this was happening, I unexpectedly started coughing. I thought I would be able to stay for the entire interview without my allergies borrowing me, but as the interview progressed I had to leave the room because I did not want my coughing and sneezing to interfere with the video taping. Despite this, the experience of meeting an African American doctor whose portrait will soon hang on a wall in the Dean's boardroom was more than I could ask for from a summer job. I'm excited to see what GCPA has in store for us next!

Could That Be Me One Day?

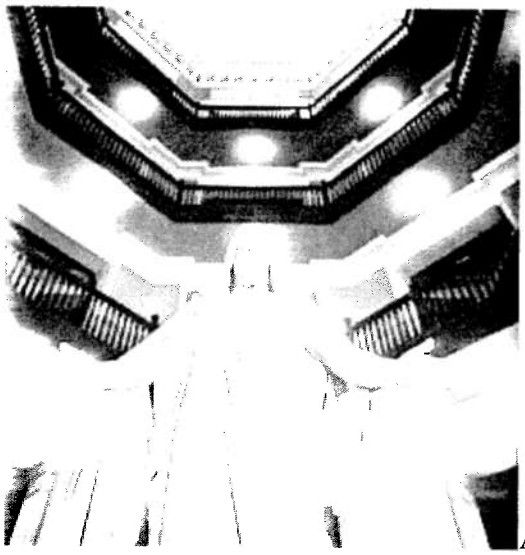
by Zach on Jul.10, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

I don't know about my fellow GCPA YouthWorks interns, but I've never been to a press conference before. Our supervisor, Tracey Reeves, invited us to the event so we could see what goes into the making of a news conference. This one was held to announce a new federal loan forgiveness and repayment program that U.S. Rep John Sarbanes helped pass in Congress. The event was held in the School of Education Building just down the street from the Homewood campus, and included some important people such as John Berry, director of the Office of Personnel Management who was appointed by President Barack Obama, and of course, JHU President Ron Daniels. It was an exciting morning. As Alex, Samone, Chanel, Kenterra and I sat in the back of the stained-glass windowed room, we saw it quickly fill with people.
A cameraman from WBAL, channel 11, and there were reporters from the Washington Post and a government magazine. All of the speakers were very good. As I sat there, I imagined myself giving a big speech 10 years from now.

Leave a Comment more...

Our Tour of the East Baltimore Campus

by Alex on Jul.10, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

 At GCPA, our job is to get to know how Johns Hopkins works and what the people here do. It's a pretty big place so our supervisors set up "field trips" to the different divisions to help us along. I guess you could say they are showing us rather than just telling us about JH. Since we arrived in late June, we've toured the Homewood campus, Applied Physics Laboratory and the East Baltimore campus. We're scheduled to go to Peabody, City Hall and the statehouse in Annapolis. My favorite so far was East Baltimore. The five of us saw the Jesus statue and got to rub its big toe. They say doing that brings good luck. Christine Kavanagh, community relations coordinator at GCPA and Matt Greenwood, communications specialist at GCPA, took us on the tour. After seeing the statue, we all headed down to the towline with Antoinette Hodge and Steven Cawunder who showed us where tons upon tons of trash, bedding and hazardous waste pass along the long half mile underground tunnel. It was amazing. The Vivarium was next. Jack Grinnalds showed us where the research animals are located. We saw mice in cages. I'm talking about hundreds and hundreds of mice.
Later, we met up with Dr. George Dover, director of Johns Hopkisn Children's Center, and Katie Taylor, pediatric trauma performance improvement coordinator, who showed us the pediatric intensive care unit and emergency room where we saw some very sick kids. That was very depressing but it was good to see that they were in good hands with Dr. Dover and the staff. The best part of the day was when we rode the elevator express p to the helipad, which is where the helicopters bring in very sick kids like the ones involved in car accidents. The view of the city was one of the best I've ever seen. Too bad we weren't able to see a o land. Although, I'm glad we didn't see one land because that would have meant that someone was in need of medical care. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to see and experience all of these amazing things that most people don't get to see.

1 Comment more...

Welcome to YouthWorks at Johns Hopkins

by editor on Jun.30, 2009, under A Kid in the Conference Room

Johns Hopkins hired approximately 250 Baltimore teenagers and young adults as part of the city's YouthWorks summer jobs program. Five of those teens are working in the Government, Community and Public Affairs office on Bond Street in Fell's Point, performing a variety of tasks from assisting with video and photo shoots to filing and stuffing envelopes. In true fashion to GCPA's mission of communicating the messages of Johns Hopkins, our five students have created this blog to document their work and experiences with the institution's various divisions and people they've met along the way. Take a look.

Zach Worsley

by Zach on Jun.30, 2009, under Biographies

My name is Zachary Worsley and I am a 15-year-old sophomore at Mount Saint Joseph High School. I live on the East side of Baltimore. My interests include playing sports, reading, surfing the web, cooking, playing the drums and singing. After graduation, I would like to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta and major in political science. After undergraduate school, I'd like to go to law school at Howard University in Washington D.C. My goal is to become a corporate attorney and eventually start my own firm.

Leave a Comment more...

The Baltimore Sun

A summer of change

At-risk teens show off what they learned in city program

Joshua Robinson, 16 (left), and Brandon Jones, 15, warm up before joining other juggling students on stage. (Baltimore Sun photo by Kim Hairston / August 14, 2009)

By Olivia Bobrowsky

August 15, 2009

To celebrate the end of a summer youth program, at-risk Baltimore teens came together Friday to show off their accomplishments. Boys juggled, girls balanced peacock feathers on their noses, a choir belted out original tunes and a young man read a poem aloud.

The eclectic performances at Heritage High School at Lake Clifton all demonstrated the themes behind the Baltimore Youth Apprenticeship Program, an opportunity for local youth to harness their energy to generate social change. The juggling and balancing act symbolized concentration, and the songs' lyrics and poem's verse spoke of determination.

After the live performances, the audience watched a documentary created by the teenagers showcasing the apprenticeship program experience. During the eight weeks, the more than 100 participants engaged in a wide range of activities, such as archery, meditation,

horseback riding and silk-screening.

But for the main component of the program the participants split into two groups - Street Soldiers who learned how to prevent violence and Farm 2 Fork, which taught about environmental issues.

Street Soldiers used guest speakers and workshops to teach youths about risk factors that often lead to violence.

"We teach the students that violence is a disease, but we have a cure for that disease," said Lydia Hall, a facilitator for the program who's also in charge of discipline at Heritage High School. "We teach them how to defuse conflict."

Christin Pittman, a 16-year-old Street Soldier, said she's learned to avoid risk factors such as guns and alcohol. More importantly, she said, the program taught her how to communicate with other youths. Once school starts, the Street Soldiers will go into local middle schools to relay their lessons.

"It's a rippling effect," said Nzinga Oneferua-El, the founder and executive director of Safe Healing Foundation, which founded the apprenticeship program with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and Baltimore Safe and Sound Campaign. "We're looking to make major change in Baltimore."

Tony Harper, a 19-year-old student at Doris M. Johnson High School, said the program has changed his outlook on life. He spent the summer working with Farm 2 Fork, during which participants planted and tended to crops on a 33-acre parcel in **Catonsville**.

The land, known as the Great Kids Farm, belongs to the Baltimore public school system, but Tony Geraci, the school system's director of food and nutrition, said that until recently it had been unused. The program participants were able to transform their lives as well as the land, he said.

"When I first came here, I had a lot of animosity," Harper said. "There were a lot of times when I had incidents with people or anger problems, and I would go to one of the staff members and they would talk to me and that would calm me down.

"It looks like for now, I'm going forward instead of backward. I'm making a positive change in what I'm doing, for real. I think this program is real; without it, I'd probably be in jail somewhere."

Now that the eight weeks are over, Oneferua-El is trying to help her students use their new attitudes to find jobs. The organization sponsored a career fair Friday, and a few teenagers have landed internships at local businesses.

"Hopefully, I'll leave here with a job," Harper said. "But I know I'll leave here with a positive mind."

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News from WIN (Workforce Investment Network) for MD

Success Stories

Youth Programs

Susquehanna Workforce Network Reinvents Summer Youth Program

The last time the Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN) ran a subsidized summer youth employment program in Cecil and Harford Counties, today's teens were young children.

"When the Workforce Investment Act came in 10 years ago, we made a decision to focus on dropout youth," Operations Manager Linda Siegel recalled. When it became clear that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) would provide significant funds for summer youth employment programming in 2009, SWN's Youth Council and Youth Advisory Board told the staff to "spend as much of it as possible – all of it, if you can." The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) agreed. (The Youth Council – 20 adults representing youth-serving agencies – and the Youth Advisory Board of 10 older teens advise the WIB on youth programming; the WIB is SWN's decision-making board.)

The region's economy and workforce underwent a major transformation in the past decade. It was clear that SWN needed a new approach to conform to its current workforce development plan, since "everything we do now is predicated on the occupational demand framework and our school systems' goals and objectives," Siegel explained. "We were starting from scratch. We didn't have a subsidized summer framework in place any longer – not since 1999. We did a lot of brainstorming."

SWN Executive Director Bruce England consulted local elected officials for their views on a new summer program to enhance the region's existing initiatives. They concurred with the WIB and the Youth Council: The work experiences had to be value-added, with a strong learning component; youth had to learn and apply valuable skills in demand occupations.

SWN heard in late March that it would receive just over $300 thousand from ARRA, and immediately launched a fast-track RFP process, issuing a Request for Proposals on April 1 with a bidders conference on April 6. Proposals were due May 4, the WIB review committee made its recommendations to the Youth Council the week of May 11, and on May 22 the full WIB chose six of the 14 proposals for funding. Selected vendors attended an orientation on May 29, and the program was on its way.

Vendors' proposals had to focus on demand occupations. They needed to relate to registered apprenticeship programs or other work experience, integrate work-based and classroom learning, or offer academic and occupational linkages targeted to career pathways. Successful applicants demonstrated their capacity to deliver a program of value, and showed a solid understanding of young people from economically disadvantaged families.

SWN recruited 364 youth, of whom 254 were determined to be eligible (ages 14-24, and economically disadvantaged). The ARRA funds allowed only 125 youth to participate in the five-week, minimum-wage program. The vendors wanted those hired to feel that they had earned their slots in the program, so SWN coordinated an interview day on June 6th and invited the young people to interview with vendors for specific jobs. It was "a wild day," Siegel reported. "We held interviews in both counties that day. We didn't have time to do a whole lot of interview prep with the youth, but we emphasized that they needed to work on making a good impression. The interview showed that they really wanted the job; we didn't want to give the impression of an

entitlement. We've gotten lots of positive feedback from the parents on this whole letter-interview process. We emphasized to the parents that the youth had earned their places in the program."

Most of the 125 youth the vendors had hired attended an orientation (June 13 at Harford Community College and June 19 at Cecil Community College), where they learned pre-employment work maturity skills. SWN also adapted and presented a workplace readiness curriculum prepared by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and introduced the Individual Service Strategy concept.

In keeping with the value-added work experience approach, each vendor is expected to help their young employees master a specific set of skills.

Examples of the vendors and their summer youth employment projects:

- An innovative conservation project called Boys to Men targets 14- and 15-year-olds with "lots of temptations" and provides environmental education and environmental ethics through trail maintenance, meadow planting, and pond and wetland restoration at Susquehanna State Park, in collaboration with the Harford County Sheriff's Department, Harford County Public Schools, and a faith-based organization in Edgewood.
- Goodwill's three-site program includes a marketing and merchandising component that supplements the normal customer service and donation receiving tasks.
- Harford Community College's Bridge to the Trades program is an apprentice-like "trades sampler" approach focused on electrical, plumbing and HVAC.
- The Cecil Community College trades sampler for older youth (ages 20-24, and receiving TANF temporary cash assistance) places youth in childcare, construction, veterinary, administrative, and hospitality positions. SWN anticipates that

this project will provide these older youth – many of whom are parents with no work experience – with a strong segue from summer employment and learning into full-time employment.

"The one thing that struck me is that I had a tremendous amount of reservations going into this, because we are a completely different WIA than we were in 1999, and I was concerned that we would not utilize these funds in a manner that would move the workforce system forward," Siegel said. "I didn't want to just throw money out there into the community. After talking with the community groups, I was so in awe that they shared our concerns and came up with such dynamite projects in such a short time. There is no way we could have done this without their support. They were determined to do something of value. So, after all these weeks of a lot of extra hours, I think we're going to have superior experiences for these kids for the summer. The vendors are knocking themselves out."

-

Contact:
Linda Siegel
Operations Manager
Susquehanna Workforce Network
401-939-4240
LSiegel@swnetwork.org

News from WIN (Workforce Investment Network) for MD

Success Stories

Youth Programs

Frederick County Partners with Fort Detrick for Summer Jobs

This summer, Fort Detrick is introducing Frederick County youth to "jobs of the future." Thanks to a partnership with Frederick County Workforce Services (FCWS), 20 youth are working in 17 different worksites on the base, in positions such as library assistant, laboratory aide, and safety assistant. Youth have also been placed in public affairs, clerical, food service, and warehouse positions.

The partnership began last summer, when FCWS initiated its effort to place young workers at the Fort for the summer. This year's program builds on last year's success.

Although Fort Detrick has been part of the Frederick community for 53 years, it carries an air of mystery, with its focus on biomedical research and development, medical materiel management, and global telecommunications. This partnership has helped create positive public relations in the County. Many of the summer jobs emphasize STEM skills (science, technology, engineering, and math), but "they're not necessarily hiring just the kids who'll be the rocket scientists, and they were very willing to hire youth with disabilities and integrate them into the talent pipeline," explained Michelle Gallipoli, FCWS Youth Services Manager. "They're setting an example for other employers around the County. This was something unique and different, and it has really paid off.

"We are very fortunate to have one contact person at Ft. Detrick," Gallipoli added. "We found one person on that base who was our liaison – Lanae Johnson. Our Youth Services Specialist, Brooke Sims, made the connection with Lanae, who then recruited positions internally for us. We never would have gotten this far without Lanae. It takes two people who are dedicated to expanding the program and giving youth opportunities in different areas."

The summer jobs program has always enjoyed strong support from the County Commissioners. They understand how important it is for young people to work in the summer, and they expect that some of the money earned will come back into the local economy. Job coaches funded by the Departments of Social Services and Rehabilitative Services provide one-on-one intensive skills training to 10-12 youth with severe disabilities, enabling them to make significant contributions on the job sites.

Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) helped expand Frederick County's summer youth employment program by 50, for a total of 150 young people this summer. Even so, 100 eligible applicants had to be turned away. "We don't guarantee youth a job, we just guarantee them an interview," Gallipoli explained. "They have to prepare for their interviews, and that preparation can make all the difference. We try to place the ones who don't get jobs by referring them out to private sector employers, but there aren't many opportunities this summer."

Youth in the summer jobs program earn minimum wage ($7.25 an hour) and generally work 28 hours each week for five weeks.

The summer workers gain practical work experience at an early age (despite eligibility ranging up to 24 years old as a result of ARRA, most Frederick County participants are under 18). Summer employment "helps them graduate from high school, and gets them to take an interest in their local economy because they have real money to spend," according to Gallipoli. "We're always working on work ethic and introducing them to the world of work, with job-specific skills at each site. We have an orientation for the youth, and introduce them to acceptable work behaviors. On site, the supervisors (who've been oriented as well) reinforce those lessons.

This year, FCWS developed a new 'Youth and Employment' segment for supervisors, with help from The Way Station, an organization that works with people with disabilities. Disability navigators (specialists who help people with disabilities "navigate" the world of work) delivered this segment of the orientation, but they didn't single out youth with disabilities. Their general overview helped supervisors learn what to expect from youth from low-income families, youth with other barriers, and youth with specific disabilities.

Evaluation of this year's program will help shape next year's. According to Gallipoli: "We always monitor our worksites to ensure that they follow their worksite agreements. At the end of the summer, we analyze the data and determine which worksites we want to use again the next summer. The employers evaluate the youth several times over the summer and give them feedback. That helps the youth understand what they're doing well and what they need to work on."

Contact:
Michelle Gallipoli
Youth Services Manager
Frederick County Workforce Services
301-600-3561

mgallipoli@fredco-md.ne

Green Jobs for Baltimore Youth

Susquehanna Workforce Network Reinvents Summer Youth Program

News from Montgomery College

900 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850

Date: June 30, 2004 (04-62)

Montgomery College Students with Disabilities Succeed in Summer Jobs Program with Federal Government

MC Tops Maryland Colleges, Third Overall Nationally in Student Job Placements

Montgomery College leads Maryland colleges and universities in the number of students with disabilities that have been placed in summer jobs through the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities, a joint program from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Department of Defense. Montgomery College ranks third overall among the more than 180 participating colleges and universities nationwide, trailing only National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology in New York and Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

The Workforce Recruitment Program enables college students with disabilities to find summer employment with the federal government agencies. Since the end of March, more than a dozen Montgomery College students have been placed in summer positions within the federal government.

"I think it is a great opportunity to get your foot in the door," said Montgomery College student Theodore Booker, a summer employee of the Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration. "It has provided an opportunity to network, use office equipment, and develop my people skills."

Montgomery College's Student Employment Services assisted students throughout the Workforce Recruitment Program's application process. Student Employment Services and Career Center staff, along with Disability Support Services counselors, collaborated on the review of student application packets. In addition, workshops were held to teach students about the WRP, resume writing,

and job interviews. Montgomery College students said the workshops and resume assistance were "helpful."

Montgomery College student Shannon Scarboro, a summer employee at the Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration, believes her experiences in the Workforce Recruitment Program will not only "enhance her resume," but may also provide an opportunity to obtain future employment with the federal government.

"The Workforce Recruitment Program gives many students with disabilities the break they need to launch successful careers," said U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. "They acquire valuable work experience, gain confidence, and make important job connections. The WRP also fulfills President Bush's New Freedom Initiative pledge to promote summer employment opportunities throughout the nation for people with disabilities."

The WRP, unveiled March 30, has already placed 341 college students with disabilities in summer and even some permanent positions within the federal government. The 2004 placement number is expected to increase because of a joint memorandum that Secretary Chao and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued on May 24 urging government selecting officials "to consider the candidates referred through this program for career development opportunities and permanent employment."

For more information about Montgomery College's participation in the Workforce Development Program, contact Wayne Barbour, director of Montgomery College Student Employment Services, at 301-601-6908.

WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUMMER JOB PROGRAM FUNDED BY STIMULUS, DOUBLES IN SIZE

Thursday, August 20, 2009, 1:40pm EDT

The Montgomery County Summer Youth Jobs Program doubled in size from last year with over 126 youth participants.

County Executive Isiah Leggett will speak at the program's closing ceremony Thursday.

The program was run by the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Services and funded by $343,000 in stimulus funds. The 16 to 24-year-old future business men and women in the program held six-week positions with a variety of government, non-profit and private organizations.

Here is a sampling of the 50-plus local businesses that participated:

- Advanced Biomimetic Sensors Inc.
- Applied Wireless LAN Inc.
- Aronson & Company
- Astor & Sanders Corp.
- City of Gaithersburg
- Community Support Services
- Curves Fitness Center
- Edison HS Construction Team
- Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce
- Hearts and Homes for Youth
- Holt Electrical Contractors
- Insurance Exchange
- Long & Foster Realty
- Marriott International
- Maryland Multicultural Youth Center
- Maxim Healthcare Services
- MicroManos
- Montgomery County Department of Economic Development
- Montgomery County Department of Planning
- Sandy Spring Bank
- State Farm Insurance
- Transfiguration Church

Posted: 20 Jul 2009 05:10 AM PDT

Lansing State Journal - Lansing,MI,USA

Program offers more than employment

BY SUE LOUNDS • SLOUNDS@LSJ.COM • JULY 19, 2009 • FROM CLINTON COUNTY NEWS

ST. JOHNS - With a combination of timely federal funding and cooperation from more than 30 Clinton County businesses, Capital Area Michigan Works! is helping scores of young people with jobs, education and employment skills.

"We are still looking for people to take advantage of this program," said George Contompasis, director of the St. Johns service center for CAMW. "It's a great program. Businesses have been great."

Funding for the Summer Youth Program comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Participants must be between 14 and 24 years old and meet other eligibility requirements.

"Middle-class kids don't get into this program. Economic need is imperative, unless they have a documented disability," he said, "or if they have been a foster child."

One-hundred and ten participants are working at 34 locations around the county.

"We have private, non-profit and government placements," Contompasis said. But there is a need for more business participants.

Employers needed

Contompasis said CAMW needs to find more employers and more youth participants so the initiative can fulfill its potential.

"We have the funding, so we need to take advantage of it," he said.

Individuals and businesses interested in the Summer Youth Program are encouraged to contact CAMW St. Johns Service Center at (989) 224-2000.

"As soon as we get their paperwork and get them qualified, we'll get them to work," said Contompasis.

The program is not just about finding jobs for the participants.

"There is an education component too," said Contompasis.

Employees who are still in school can have class for credit recovery, if necessary, so they can graduate on time.

"We have four certified teachers on staff this summer," said Contompasis. "The participants who need remedial help spend about three hours a day in school. In some cases, the education piece can go beyond the usual 40-hour work week."

Andy Todosciuk, owner of Andy T's Farm Market, is involved. He has two young participants on his staff and may add another soon.

Lansing State Journal

$3.3M in stimulus money generates work

MELISSA DOMSIC • MDOMSIC@LSJ.COM • AUGUST 18, 2009 • FROM LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Dominique Kowalk has been awake at 4:30 a.m. each weekday this summer so she can take the bus, drop her 6-month-old daughter at day care and get to work by 9 a.m.

The 23-year-old single mother doesn't complain. She says she's grateful for her full-time, minimum-wage summer job doing clerical work at Woldumar Nature Center.

Kowalk, of Lansing, got the job through Capital Area Michigan Works' summer youth employment program.

"Without this, I'd probably still be out there just filling out applications and not having any luck," she said. "This has helped tremendously."

The work force development agency received $3.3 million in federal stimulus money to put more than 700 at-risk 14- to 24-year-olds to work at more than 200 businesses, nonprofits and governmental agencies in the tri-county area.

Most were paid $7.40 per hour, but those in supervisory positions earned $12. They worked 40 hours a week unless they went to school for part of the time.

Participants had to be economically disadvantaged and have some other barrier, such as a disability, teen pregnancy or homelessness.

More than 1,000 people applied for the jobs, said Doug Stites, CEO of Capital Area Michigan Works.

Helping both ways

Stites credits that to record-high unemployment rates among young people, particularly minority youths in urban areas. Current local teen jobless rates were not available, but the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the unemployment rate among 16- to 24-year-olds hit 16.4 percent in 2008, up from 13.8 percent in 2007. Data are not collected on teens under age 16.

The youth jobs program kicked off in June. Friday was the last day of work for many workers, though about 275 are staying on through Labor Day.

Since starting her job at the nature center, Kowalk decided to get her associate's degree in human services at Cornerstone University.

"I think this program for Dominique has given her the self-confidence she needed in herself," said Shelli Burdo, a summer youth employment coordinator. "Through the booklets and things she's done, she realizes now, 'Oh, I can do this, and I can go to college.' "

Cory Jones also decided he wants to go to college to be a welder.

Jones, 22, of Lansing, dropped out of high school in 10th grade and was struggling to find work.

He spent the summer doing maintenance work at the nature center.

"It's done a lot for me, working and learning new things," Jones said.

It's also done a lot for the nature center. Jones and other workers hauled 15 tons of crushed stone for trail improvements, fixed fences and completed other general maintenance work.

"Without this program, we never would be able to do this," said Lori McSweeney, Woldumar's executive director.

She said corporate donations and program registrations are down for the privately funded center. It would have taken years to complete the projects with part-time volunteers.

Experience and cash

More than 200 organizations and businesses participated in the program, including the Lansing Board of Water & Light, Sparrow Health System, Cristo Rey Community Center, and several local government offices, stores and restaurants.

Gardner Middle School got a boost from the summer help. The Lansing school has cut staff and head secretary Yvonne Hall said she wouldn't have made it this summer without two teens to work her office.

Janaye Haynes, 15, worked in the secretary's office and took career-minded classes as part of the program.

She was happy for the experience - and the cash.

"It could help me money-wise, it could help me with my future by getting a job," said Janaye, who's entering 10th grade at Everett High School.

Janaye said she spent some of her earnings on school clothes, but also saved some money for college.

FOX VALLEY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 31, 2009

2009 Summer Youth Employment Program – *Applications Now Being Accepted for Youth & Employers in* ***Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties.***

As part of President Obama's **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (AARA) of 2009**, the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) will receive additional **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)** funds to implement a Summer Youth Employment Program. With the additional funds, eligible youth (ages 14-24) could receive a paid work experience in order to gain work readiness skills. The Summer Program will run from mid-June to late-August and will include classroom learning as well as time on the approved work site. Youth can work in a variety of entry-level job settings including government agencies, hospitals, non-profits, small businesses, and retail organizations. Special consideration will be given to activities that expose youth to opportunities in "green" educational and career pathways.

The Summer Youth Employment Program strives to:

- Emphasize real-world labor expectations;
- Provide the opportunity to explore careers of interest;
- Increase awareness of services offered by local community-based organizations;
- Provide opportunities for career instruction, financial literacy training, academic; improvement, and social growth.

Please note: Priority of service for summer employment positions will be given to veterans and eligible spouses. In addition, the work experience of the participants should not replace the work of employees who have experienced layoffs.

Businesses and Organizations have the opportunity to receive the benefits of **ARRA** by having additional workers to carry out projects and positions that they may not have had the funds to implement. Under the stimulus package, eligible youth will get their wages paid by WIA funds while gaining valuable work readiness skills. If you want to benefit from the Economic Stimulus monies and are interested in supervising a youth this summer through an opportunity at your organization, contact Kim Lemieux at the FVWDB at (920) 720-5600, or by email: klemieux@fvwdb.com.

In the interest of the participants' safety, OSHA compliance and Child Labor Laws will be assessed before work sites are approved. **The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board**, and its contracted providers, as the administering agency for the **U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration** Youth funds, reserves the right not to fill a requested slot if the position is considered non-conducive to the youth's safety and well-being. Employers must also agree to the terms and conditions of the program including offering exemplary supervision and meaningful work duties.

Youth program slots are limited and certain eligibility requirements must be met in order to participate. We encourage youth to apply early. Mandatory orientation sessions are scheduled before the summer program begins; detailed information on orientation dates will be provided as they become available. If you are a youth interested in the summer employment program, or know of a youth who may wish to become involved, please contact Kim Lemieux at the FVWDB at (920) 720-5600 or by email: klemieux@fvwdb.com.

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FVWDB: The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) is a public/private partnership between government and business that plans, administers and coordinates Workforce Investment Act (WIA) employment and training programs for adults and youth in the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago. This region is known as Workforce Development Area (WDA) #4. The Workforce Development Board has two separate functions working within the same structure. Those functions include:

- The broader Workforce Investment System operated through local Job Centers and providing specific WIA oversight responsibility; and

- The WDB's own organizational goals and strategies which are set each year.

NEWS RELEASE CONTACT:

Cheryl Welch
Executive Administrator
Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, Inc.
1401 McMahon Drive
Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: (920) 720-5600
Fax: (920) 720-5606
cwelch@fvwdb.com

Posted: 03 Aug 2009 05:14 AM PDT

The Detroit News

At-risk youth and community reap rewards from garden

Mike Martindale / The Detroit News

Pontiac -- A modest but important project under way on a vacant, weed-choked lot is helping teach teens about the past while preparing them for the future.

About three dozen young people, ages 14-24, are involved in the Baldwin Community Garden through the Community Service and Leadership Plus mentoring program. They till the soil, plant flowers and water lines of planted vegetables to be harvested in the fall and donated to people in the community.

But the bounty to be reaped far exceeds what sprouts from the soil at Baldwin and West Princeton streets. Just ask Ahleya Delgado, 14, a Pontiac Central 10th-grader.

"I am happy to do something to improve my community and also to be an example to others," Delgado said. "It's important."

Shela Herrera, 19, has been involved in the mentoring program for three years, including other projects such as packing and tagging boxes of food for the needy with the Gleaners group.

"It just makes you feel good," she said. "If I wasn't up doing this, I probably would be home in bed sleeping."

The project operates on many levels, according to Yolanda Gomez, director of the Bloomfield Hills-based program, which takes at-risk teens under its wings from the Pontiac and Avondale School districts.

Some of the youths involved will accumulate community service credits needed for graduation. Others have been directed to the program by teachers, counselors and parents because they are considered in need of direction and positive activity to stay of out trouble.

Still others, like Amyre Gardner, 20, became involved because it meant an opportunity to make some money at a time when summer jobs -- or jobs any time, especially for young people with little or no experience -- are scarce.

"I was looking for a job, and this is something I wanted to be a part of," said Gardner, a 2007 Pontiac Northern High graduate.

For most of those involved, it has provided a tie with an old-fashioned concept -- growing your own food -- that is foreign to their supermarket-supplied, fast-food restaurant world.

"Most of these kids have never planted anything," Gomez said.

"But they are learning. Many wanted to know why food costs more in the organic section of stores. They are not only learning about nutrition, fertilizers and preservatives but also sharing responsibilities from cleaning an area, to planting, to making sure what's planted is watered and cared for properly."

The garden has caused a ripple effect in the community. Curious neighbors -- who have seen nothing but debris and overgrown weeds at the site for years -- have watched the teens embracing their garden. On a recent day, a cinderblock wall of a building across West Princeton, long marred with crude graffiti, was being painted over.

"This just started, and we can already see a difference," said local businessman Martin Kalaj, who owns the garden as well as the Rocket Restaurant next door.

Kalaj, who donated use of the lot for the project, is enthusiastic about his new neighbors.

"Believe it or not, this was once farmland along here decades ago -- the old Walton Farm, which extended north to Walton Road. This is taking us back to the farm."

NEWS RELEASE
JUNE 9, 2009

AREA YOUTH PREPARE FOR WORK PROGRAM IN TOUGH JOB MARKET

CARLTON – Local teens gathered Monday in Jay Cooke State Park's Visitor Center for an orientation to the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training's Summer Youth work program. The program is designed to assist 14-24 year olds in realizing what skills they have to offer in the workplace.

Cloquet Career Counselors Stacy Kenyon and Clare Cassandro had planned to incorporate outdoor activities into their orientation. However rain, wind, and cold temperatures kept the group inside the Visitor Center's public meeting space.

The dreary weather was an appropriate parallel to the job market facing today's youth. With local unemployment rates being calculated between eight and ten percent and over 90,000 jobs lost in Minnesota this past year, it is not difficult to see why the storm clouds looming above seemed fitting.

Despite the gloomy weather and gloomier job market, attitudes inside the Visitor Center remained positive. The 26 teens in attendance all found summer jobs with the help of their Career Counselors, Kenyon and Cassandro of Cloquet's Workforce Center.

Teens who qualify for the Summer Youth work program are given summer jobs that fit their skills and abilities. Often, summer work is tailored to student's long term interests.

"I want to go into woodworking someday," one participant said.

"And that's what he's doing this summer, working at Morning Star [Woodworks]," Cassandro explained to the rest in attendance.

Career Counselors work side by side with participants, ensuring the program runs smoothly and safely. Safety was stressed during Monday's orientation. Teens took "Safety IQ" tests and played child labor law bingo.

"You have to know what to do in order to do your job safely," Kenyon said. "84,000 teens go to the Emergency Room each year because of work-related accidents."

Last summer, the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training Summer Youth program had no reported accidents, and counselors hope for another safe summer.

The Summer Youth program also focuses on career exploration. Students filled out resume worksheets and personality assessments. They also conducted mock job interviews in pairs. Cassandro critiqued their responses.

"Make sure you always relate your answers back to the jobs," she said. "You have good work experience that you can use as examples of how you can do a good job."

Many of the teens in attendance have worked with the program before, though the number of participants has grown thanks to new stimulus funding. Those who had worked with the program in past years were happy to reconnect with others they knew through the program.

"What's interesting is these kids are from all over Carlton County, in all these different grades," Kenyon said. "but they form some real friendships at work."

If you are interested in more information about the youth program, or any other program offered by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, please call 1-800-325-5332, or visit the website at www.jobtrainingmn.org. Local counselors can be reached at 218-878-4414.

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Contact: Katy Kohlhase (218)-748-2209

Chisago County PRESS

Teens gain valuable work, life experience through summer youth work program

BY DANI STRENKE

A group of 24 hard working teens recently celebrated the end of a very successful summer youth work program. The Chisago Lakes High School students were part of a program that was funded by Youth American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

As they shared cake and refreshments, the students and their supervisors were able to reflect back on the vast amount of projects that were accomplished during their nine weeks of work, and showed pride in what they had done.

CLHS Work Experience Coordinator Stephanie Bushard, along with teachers Joy Ruce, Mary Klick and Andrea Ryan, led the program as supervisors of the 15-18 year olds.

Grant funding became available this past spring through money received by Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS).

Bushard said she and other staff identified students who could benefit from the program.

"The students had to qualify based on certain situations such as at-risk students or those with special needs or low income," said Craig Bestick, who helped to oversee the program as a representative of CMJTS.

Around 40 students applied for the program. The hiring process included a job interview.

From there, 24 students and six alternates were chosen. Bushard said the alternates were put on a waiting list, in case any of the students were unable to complete the work program.

At the same time, Bushard was working to establish partnerships with the school district, Lakes Area Police Dept. and the cities of Lindstrom and Chisago City, to set up a work schedule for the students.

"The idea was to develop their work experience," Bushard said. "Most of these kids had minimal experience."

Following an orientation session, the students started working June 16. The day started promptly at 8 a.m., and wrapped up at 2:30 p.m.

Bushard said expectations and rules were clear from the beginning.

"They were told to arrive at 8 a.m. each day, and we had no tardies all summer," Bushard said.

The importance of using time wisely extended to the expectation that supervisors at work sites would also be fully prepared for the students when they arrived.

"We talked about being tardy or not having the site ready for work. Even if it's 10 minutes, multiply that by 24 [students] and that's four hours of work that could have been done," Bushard said.

Students heard an overview of the day's projects, and were on their way to the job site by 8:15 a.m. each day in school district-supplied vans. It was just one of several in-kind donations required of the grant, Bushard said, and the vans were vital to its success.

Each day, three of the program's supervisors accompanied the teens, in groups of eight and teamed with a supervisor.

Even before the students left the high school each day, they were proactive in their attitude toward the day's projects.

"We would lay out the project and then discuss possible problems and challenges that could come up, and how we could deal with them," Bushard said. "We talked about using skills like teamwork, problem solving and communication."

Kids were assigned as crew leaders in each group, and were able to discuss how to get the job done utilizing everyone's skills in the group.

At 1 p.m., the group finished work for the day and returned to the high school for lunch. From 1:30 to 2:30, the group discussed the day and completed journal worksheets.

The worksheet asked them what they learned from the activity, what skills helped them complete the activity, and what the most challenging and most enjoyable portions of the activity were for them.

The days of sometimes very tough manual labor were rewarding, especially when the students could see the fruits of their labors, Bushard explained.

The crew's first job was to clean lockers and cafeteria tables at Chisago Lakes Middle School. Bushard said the students noticed on that first day how a person's actions affect others.

"There was a lot of self-awareness when they saw all the gum under the tables," Bushard said.

Awareness of actions continued when the group spent time cleaning up Camp Ojiketa for the city of Chisago City, where they saw what vandals had done.

Chisago City Parks Director Doris Zacho said the city simply could not have accomplished all the projects completed by the students this summer.

"It was a blessing for me, that's for sure," Zacho said. "They were very hard workers, doing everything that we asked of them and also doing jobs that they just saw needed to be done."

At Camp Ojiketa, the teens worked to clean up four years worth of dirt, grime, leaves and sticks that had accumulated since the camp was last used. In preparation for Safety Camp, the crews cleaned Zonta Hall "from top to bottom," Zacho said, and completed other projects such as painting, washing windows and floors, and repairing picnic tables.

They also weeded in parks and planted shrubs for Chisago City, and weeded in Lindstrom. The crews spent time at Lindstrom Beach restoring the shoreline, pulling weeds, raking and picking rock.

Two days were spent spreading wood chips on Lindstrom trails. Bushard said it was difficult work, hauling wood chips up to three-fourths of a mile in wheelbarrows, but none of the kids complained or wanted to quit.

At Taylors Falls Elementary, the group painted playground equipment and new four-square games on the asphalt on a day where the blacktop surface felt like 120 degrees, Bushard said.

They also helped lay sod and clean the greenhouse at CLHS, and dismantle ice rink boards in Lindstrom.

Every two weeks when timecards were sent in, individual student goals were set, and then evaluated by the supervisors.

Bushard said the variety of projects

allowed each teen to gain skills needed in a variety of jobs, which was one of the program's goals.

Along the way, the kids learned valuable lessons about the workplace - and life, Bushard noted.

"The words I keep coming back to are self-discovery," she said. "They learned about what they can do, what their good at and what they can use to get a job."

Bushard and Bestick both realized the teens formed bonds, despite knowing very little about each other when the program started.

"They came in here not knowing each other and by the end they were friends," Bestick said. "A lot of them said they wouldn't have gotten to know each other any other way."

Bushard was excited when she noticed the group wasn't simply working side by side - they were working as a team.

After the wood chipping projects in Lindstrom, some of the teens brought back a large wood chip shaped like a hockey stick. "They painted it a very bright yellow," Bushard said. The teens transformed the stick into "The Golden Wood Chip Award" and started presenting it to fellow workers for a job well done.

It was then that Bushard knew they had taken their work ethic to the next level. "When you start developing your own traditions like that in the workplace, it's a very healthy environment," she said.

Outside of their work experience, students gained valuable knowledge from their supervisors about careers and job skills. They learned about job hunting strategies and creating successful resumes, and how to use their skills and talents to get a job.

NEWS RELEASE
PHOTOS PENDING
JUNE 19, 2009

LOCAL TEEN INSPIRES OTHERS AT YWCA

DULUTH – At nine and a half months pregnant, Angel Bowles walked to and from the bus stop every morning in order to get to work. This kind of determination is typical of Bowles, 19, who works at the YWCA organizing fundraisers for the Young Mothers Program. The Young Mothers Program offers supportive housing to mothers ages 16 to 21, and it is especially important to Bowles, who has participated in the Young Mothers Program before.

Despite the troubling job market, Bowles found employment through the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training's Summer Youth work program. The program is designed to assist 14-24 year olds in realizing what skills they have to offer in the workplace. Career advancement opportunities offered include on-the-job training, career exploration, aptitude testing, a variety of workshops, and the possibility of year-round employment.

Bowles heard about the Summer Youth program from Duluth Career Counselor Martha Primozich. Bowles was already volunteering at the shelter and was pleased to find out she could be paid for the work she was doing.

"I just thought it was a great idea," Bowles said. "Anything I can do to help [the YWCA's Young Mothers Program]. It's such a great program. If I didn't have it, who knows where I would be."

Worksite supervisor Melissa Reveille has known Angel since the teen first moved into the YWCA shelter. She says Bowles is a "great positive role model" to the women who move into the shelter.

"Angel is strong and independent. The other girls see it can be done," Reveille said. "We like to show her off."

Supervisors are thankful for the help and support Bowles provides, but they are also happy that she is still involved with the program after moving out on her own.

"There have been lots of benefits. Since she lived here before, she came in working with an idea of how she wanted to make things different here," Reveille said. "Plus, this work program keeps her and her kids connected to our Young Mothers Program."

Bowles is currently in the process of organizing a rummage sale for the Young Mothers Program. The sale will be held at the Spirit Valley YWCA and proceeds will benefit the shelter and its inhabitants. If the sale raises $600, Bowles plans to take the teens involved in the Young Mothers Program on a trip to Valley Fair.

"I wanted to give the girls some motivation," Bowles said. "I'm also planning a carwash."

In addition to fundraising, Bowles has organized exercise groups for the Young Mothers Program. She says she organizes programs like these because she cares about the friends she has made in the program. Reveille says that the meetings Bowles hosts have had promising attendance.

"She has a way about her that motivates the girls in ways we never could," she said.

As part of her job, Bowles has been putting together slideshows to present to community members and local businesses. The slideshows include photographs and stories of young women involved with the Young Mothers Program. Bowles says she hopes the slideshows will help break stereotypes people have about young parents.

"You get looks when you're in the store with your kids, and you can tell people are thinking you're not a good parent or you're reckless," she said. "But the girls here are doing more than the average teen. They are good parents, they have goals, and they are working and going to school."

In the fall, Bowles plans to attend Lake Superior Community College in order to someday be a Health Unit Coordinator. Both the YWCA Young Mothers Program and the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training plan to give Bowles guidance regarding the transition to college.

If you are interested in more information about the youth program, or any other program offered by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, please call 1-800-325-5332, or visit the website at www.jobtrainingmn.org. Duluth Career Counselor Martha Primozich can be reached at (218)-723-4777.

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Contact: Katy Kohlhase (218)-748-2209

Angel Bowles sorts clothing for a rummage sale she organized to raise money for the YMCA's Young Mothers Program. Bowles' supervisor says the teen motivates other young women in the program in ways counselors have not been able to.

Fergus Falls Daily Journal

Stimulus dollars help employ youth

Published Wednesday, August 5, 2009

Nearly 100 local young adults are finding themselves employed this summer after $2.5 million in stimulus funds were awarded to Rural Minnesota CEP's Summer Youth Program.

In the 19 counties Rural Minnesota CEP serves, 1,007 young people have been hired to work for a number of organizations, government services and businesses. Throughout Fergus Falls, 70 people between the ages of 14 and 24 have been placed in positions ranging from maintenance to laboratory work. In the Underwood and Battle Lake communities, 25 young people are working summer jobs through the program.

Designed to provide youth with experience needed in today's workforce, the program has also come to the rescue of local employers, many of which have found themselves having to cut back on staff.

"It's helping out the local economy. That was the biggest push — trying to get kids out there working, helping businesses," said Chad Nelson, Youth Services Coordinator for the Minnesota Workforce Center in Fergus Falls.

Some kids are working with the City of Fergus Falls' Street Department, which this year was not able to hire back as many young workers due to reduced local government aid.

For many youth, this is their first working experience. For that reason, Nelson said it's important for young workers to be paired with top notch workers, who are able to show them what it means to be a responsible employee. The summer position allows young workers to get that first experience in the job market, which also may help them out later in life.

"It's a good workforce reference to use on their resume," Nelson said. "It's a start."

Young people involved in the program typically work 30 to 40 hours a week, depending on the position.

This isn't the first time the Workforce Center has employed young people to go out and work in the community. Previously, programs offered positions to students between the ages of 14 and 21. The additional funding through DEED has also brought the numbers up to rates they were nine years ago.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE THIS STORY?

SHARE

Comments

The Daily Journal is happy to host community conversations about news and life in Fergus Falls and the surrounding area. As hosts, we expect guests will show respect for each other. That means we don't threaten or defame each other, and we keep conversations free of personal attacks. Witty is great. Abusive is not. If you think a post violates these standards, don't escalate the situation. Instead, flag the comment to alert us. We'll take action if necessary. It's not hard. This should be a place where people want to read and contribute -- a place for spirited exchanges of opinion. So those who persist with racist, defamatory or abusive postings risk losing the privilege to post at all.

Posted by WOWfactor (anonymous) on August 5, 2009 at 10:30 p.m. (Suggest removal)

Sounds like an excellent program for youth to be a part of if you ask me. Youth are able to gain work experience and money, while businesses receive some extra help during the low economic times.

Posted by outside_observer (anonymous) on August 6, 2009 at 7:53 a.m. (Suggest removal)

I can attest to the success of this program. At 40-something now, I was involved in this as a youth. My situation growing up was that of poverty. I began at age 14, working every summer, full time, as well as 10 hours per week during the school year. I have never in my adult life needed or asked for a dime of county or state assistance. I have provided for my family. The mentors I had through CEP employment are still my heroes. Thrilled to see it available.

Posted by j_stan_jr (anonymous) on August 6, 2009 at 1:09 p.m. (Suggest removal)

as a foreman of a great pair of summer youth participants i can tell you first hand that this is the coolest thing if your young, these kids get to make money and not sit around watching TV all summer. Thank you to Chad, Shawna and the whole crew down at CEP. This program is great i hope my children will get to take advantage of it when get that age!

The Daily Journal Online

Teen gives rodeo extra pair of hands

By Lauren Radomski (Contact) | The Daily Journal

Published Wednesday, August 12, 2009

The crew preparing for this weekend's PRCA Rodeo at Red Horse Ranch Arena (RHRA) is getting some help from a local 16-year-old.

Jacob Swenson was hired to work at RHRA this summer through Rural Minnesota CEP's Summer Youth Program, which uses federal stimulus dollars to fund jobs for young people. Swenson's position at RHRA gives him an opportunity to be outdoors, work with his hands and learn the responsibilities of a job — in this case, his first.

Swenson's participation in the Summer Youth Program also means the planners behind the PRCA Rodeo are getting an extra pair of hands. In the roughly two weeks RHRA staff have been preparing the grounds, Swenson has set up fencing for parking, washed and hung banners, and completed various maintenance duties.

"There's not really one job," he said. "It's nice. It's a more relaxed environment. You get a task and you just do it."

The job is a good fit for the Erhard native and Fergus Falls High School student, who is considering a career as a conservation officer or heavy equipment operator. Among his favorite RHRA responsibilities: driving equipment like the tractor and drag used to smooth arena dirt.

This weekend's rodeo will be Swenson's first. He said he may have work to do during each night's event and he anticipates helping clean the grounds after Saturday's crowds have gone.

Swenson became interested in working at RHRA after talking with a friend who worked there. He expressed his interest to staff with Rural Minnesota CEP, who coordinated with RHRA.

Swenson's employment through the Summer Youth Program will end at the conclusion of the summer, but he said he hopes to continue working part-time during the school year. Candy Olson, event coordinator for RHRA, said Tuesday she expects Swenson will stay on.

Published on International Falls Daily Journal (http://www.ifallsdailyjournal.com)

Local teens, businesses, benefit from summer work program

By Journal Staff
Created 08/04/2009 - 1:24pm

By Office of Job Training

Most of us look back on our days of summer employment with a sense of nostalgia and, in some cases, relief — "Thank goodness I don't have to work there anymore. Bad hours. Lousy pay. Work I didn't care about or enjoy."

Participants in the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training's Summer Youth employment program should look back on their summer jobs with different feelings, that of appreciation and fulfillment.

The program offers 14-24 year olds an opportunity to learn what skills they have to offer in a workplace. On-the-job training, career exploration workshops, and the possibility of long-term employment are also available.

International Falls teen Andy Cameron is one of the participants in the program. Cameron works for Dennis Frank, owner of DK Frank Seamless Gutters. Cameron assists his supervisor in any way Frank deems necessary. His duties include painting, working on building projects, helping with inventory, and assisting on gutter installment.

"I am getting a lot done that would have to be done later," Frank said. "Andy is helping me get organized, and he is really helping out my other employees."

Cameron has helped build organization shelves for Frank's shop and a swing set that stands outside the shop. Frank says he looks at the program as a learning experience, and he has taught the teen how to use tools and equipment effectively.

"My goal for him is that he will learn enough so that he when he leaves here, he can work with anybody anywhere," Frank said.

Cameron says he has been learning new things. He has learned to use a level and chop saw. He has also learned how to measure correctly.

"I am doing things I never had a chance to before," he said.

His favorite part of his job is working with Frank, who strives to make his work environment a comfortable one.

"The only way to work is in a totally positive way," Frank said.

Cameron says he has had trouble finding employment in the area for the past three years. He heard about the summer youth program from Frank. He was already doing odd jobs for Frank, who suggested Cameron try applying for the program so he could work full time at the shop. The pairing was a successful one.

"I am pretty proud of him and the things he has done," Frank said.

Like Cameron, local teen Jodi Beck has had trouble finding jobs.

"Not many places hire at certain times of the year," Beck said. "I like that the (summer youth) program gives teens the opportunity to find jobs in town."

Beck is employed at the International Falls Chamber of Commerce through the Summer Youth program. Like Frank, Beck's supervisor, Betsy Jensen, sees the program as a learning opportunity.

"Kids like structure," she said. "They need it. I think giving her constructive criticism gives her positive direction."

This is the first year the chamber has worked with the program, and it is also the first year Beck has participated in the program. Beck spends her workdays answering phones, mailing travel brochures, updating spreadsheets, and helping plan the Smokey Bear birthday celebration.

"I have learned to use Quickbooks, Excel, and Publisher, and my people and phone skills have improved," Beck said. "But my favorite part of my job is the event planning part."

Jensen says the chamber would not be able to plan the Smokey Bear birthday celebration without Beck's help.

"It's wonderful to have extra help here," Beck said. "And the Smokey Bear birthday is something the whole community will enjoy. It's part of our history."

Jensen has many goals for her youth worker.

"I hope she will learn some basic work soft skills and hard skills," Jensen said. "She hasn't worked in a professional environment before, so there is always more to learn."

Beck has already learned how to dress and act appropriately in a professional environment. Jensen has also taught Beck to take notes on what she is told to do and to bring the notes to meetings. Jensen has received positive feedback about Beck.

"She is good with people who come in," Jensen said. "She is friendly, and we receive lots of compliments about how friendly she is. She works hard, and she is very smart."

To learn more about this program and others offered by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, visit http://www.jobtrainingmn.org [3].

International Falls career counselors can be contacted at 283-9427.

Source URL:
http://www.ifallsdailyjournal.com/news/business-news/local-teens-businesses-benefit-summer-work-program-108

Posted: 20 Jul 2009 04:24 AM PDT
Mille Lacs County Times - Milaca,MN,USA

Stimulus package provides work for area youth

By Dawn Slade
Mille Lacs County Times

Area youth are learning about the working world as they participate in the Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Youth Program.

Five youth between the ages of 14 and 19 have been working at the parks in Milaca for the past month and will continue to do so for another month.

The work program is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"There's always a youth program, it's just larger this summer due to the stimulus package," said Sharon Weaver of Central Minnesota Jobs & Training.

The organization works with 11 counties.

"We're hoping to put 800 to 1,000 to work in those counties," Weaver said of the youth program, which has nearly 700 in place now.

"Typically, the youth program serves youth 14 to 21, however the stimulus package adjusted that to age 24 for this summer," Weaver added.

Anyone can fill out an application, however, there are eligibility requirements as part of the Work Force Investment Act guidelines. Those requirements include age, income guidelines and some sort of at-risk factor (which can be a variety of things).

Weaver said a lot of the group programs are similar in nature - "green" jobs, sprucing up things outside, and maintenance work.

There's a new crew in Princeton that started running a coffee shop at the Elim Home on Monday.

In Milaca, Bill Morris, the youth crew supervisor, said the crew took down the old food stand at Rec Park and replaced it with picnic tables. They scraped the paint on the hockey rink in preparation for new paint and they replaced some boards.

This week, the crew was working on playground edging around the swing sets at Trimble Park.

"It instills work ethics, they earn wages and hopefully I'm teaching them something," Morris said.

First and foremost is safety, the supervisor said. He provides them with water and a cooler for their lunch, as well as a safety handbook for reference.

Only the 18 and 19-year-olds are allowed to utilize the power tools.

"A lot of work is manual and I try to teach them," Morris, a retired military veteran said. "Hopefully they'll remember."

Morris recalls being part of a similar program when he was growing up and added, "I know this is a good thing."

NEWS RELEASE
PHOTOS PENDING
JUNE 30, 2009

SUMMER WORK PROGRAM A SUCCESS FOR NORTHOME YOUTH

NORTHOME – After a 2006 fire that destroyed City Hall and caused serious damage to the Public Library, the city is still rebuilding. Though a new City Hall has been finished, the library is still a work in progress.

These sites are getting help in the rebuilding process from the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training in the form of summer youth workers. The office's Summer Youth employment program helps 14-24 year-olds secure summer jobs and realize what skills they have to offer in the workplace. Services provided by the program include career exploration workshops and the possibility of full-time employment. Workers are paid through the program, and worksites provide opportunities to gain valuable work experience.

This summer, recent Northome graduate Brandy Clemmer is working at the Northome Community Library through the Summer Youth employment program. Clemmer has been downloading ISBN numbers onto a computer database.

"I have been learning computer skills and how to work with people," she said.

Clemmer found out about the Summer Youth program from a teacher at school. When Career Counselor Sue Fraik was trying to find a worksite for the teen, women at the library suggested their worksite as a possibility. Clemmer says she has had trouble finding summer jobs in the area for the past two years.

"The program has been really helpful," she said. "They found me a job, and Sue has been very helpful. I can call whenever I have questions."

Because the library is still in the process of repairing damages from the fire, Clemmer is also learning about grant writing.

"We are trying to get a grant to fix the ceiling and the floors," she said. "I am learning about business, which is what I think I want to go into."

In the fall, Clemmer plans to attend Hibbing Community College. She hopes to one day own her own business. Like Clemmer, recent Northome graduate and Summer Youth participant Donald Maggert is looking beyond the summer. Maggert, who has worked with the program for three years, plans to attend heating and cooling school at the end of the summer.

"I like to work with my hands," he said. "I like to do work that will help people."

Maggert heard about the program from a teacher. Since he applied for the program three years ago, he has worked for the City of Northome and at the Northome School. He says he thinks the program is fun and he enjoys working.

"I learned how to mop and paint this summer. I had never done that before," he said.

Last summer, working for the City of Northome, Maggert saved up enough money to buy a car. Maggert's supervisor from the City, Cory Lindley, now supervises two new youth workers, Jacob Gunderson and Dalton Lindley. This is his second year supervising with the Summer Youth program.

"Thanks to the program, we are catching up on a lot of things," he said. "I don't know how I'd get anything done without these kids."

Lindley has his summer workers mowing grass, cutting weeds, piling wood, painting curbs and hydrants, and sweeping sidewalks.

"I try to keep them working as hard as possible without overdoing it," he said. "I am hoping they learn something from it. Something for the future to help in future jobs."

Youth workers Lindley and Gunderson are both participating in the Summer Youth program for the first time. They both heard about the program from their principal, and they both chose to work at the city because they like working outside.

Lindley says his favorite part of his job is working outside on the new riding lawn mower. He and his coworker are also learning valuable skills.

"I am learning how to work," he said.

At the end of the summer, the two city workers will both return to the Northome School.

City of Northome Supervisor Lindley says he thinks his workers are having a great time working with the program. He says he has been pleased with the level of support from families of Summer Youth participants.

"[Parents] especially really appreciate the program," he said. "There are no jobs around here, especially for kids. The Summer Youth program is great for this town."

If you are interested in more information about the youth program, or any other program offered by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, please call 1-800-325-5332, or visit the website at www.jobtrainingmn.org. International Falls Career Counselors Sue Fraik and Carol Stegmeir can be reached at (218)-283-9427.

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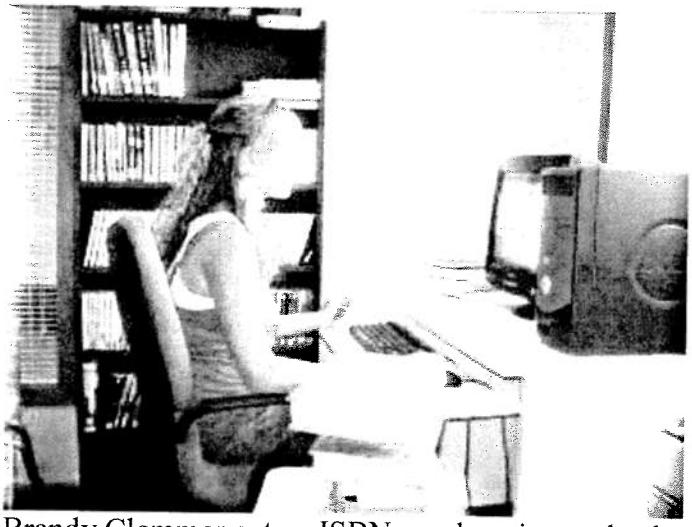
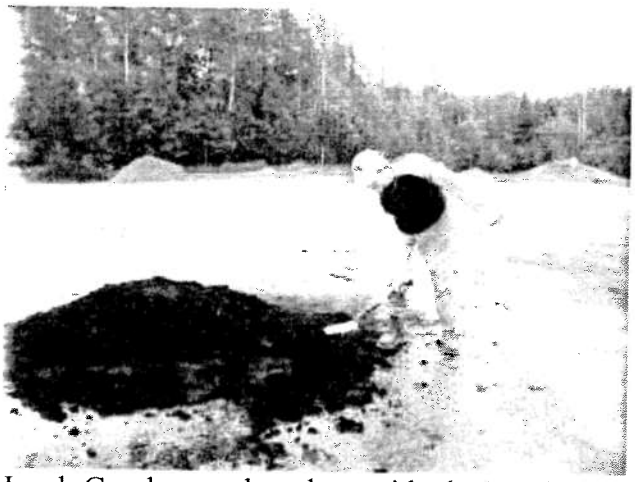
Contact: Katy Kohlhase (218)-748-2209

Dalton Lindley mows the grass at Boy Scout Point in Northome. He says the best part of his job at Northome City Hall is the new riding lawn mower.



Brandy Clemmer enters ISBN numbers into a database on the Northome Community Library's computer system. Like other Northome teens, Clemmer found her summer job through the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training's Summer Youth employment program.

Recent Northome graduate, Donald Maggert sweeps the floors of the Northome School.



Jacob Gunderson shovels outside the Northome City Garage. This is Gunderson's first summer working through the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training's Summer Youth employment program.

International Falls Daily Journal - International Falls, MN, USA

Summer work program a success for Northome youth

Submitted by Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training

July 21, 2009

NORTHOME – After a 2006 fire that destroyed City Hall and caused serious damage to the public library, the city is still rebuilding. Though a new City Hall has been finished, the library is still a work in progress.

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"I try to keep them working as hard as possible without overdoing it," he said. "I am hoping they learn something from it. Something for the future to help in future jobs."

Youth workers Lindley and Gunderson are both participating in the Summer Youth program for the first time. They both heard about the program from their principal, and they both chose to work at the city because they like working outside.

Lindley says his favorite part of his job is working outside on the new riding lawn mower. He and his coworker are also learning valuable skills.

"I am learning how to work," he said.

At the end of the summer, the two city workers will both return to the Northome School.

City of Northome supervisor Lindley says he thinks his workers are having a great time working with the program. He says he has been pleased with the level of support from families of Summer Youth participants.

"[Parents] especially really appreciate the program," he said. "There are no jobs around here, especially for kids. The Summer Youth program is great for this town."

If you are interested in more information about the youth program, or any other program offered by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, please call 1-800-325-5332, or visit the website at www.jobtrainingmn.org. International Falls Career Counselors Sue Fraik and Carol Stegmeir can be reached at (218)-283-9427.

Post-Bulletin

Stimulus helps youth find summer work

8/22/2009 6:35:02 AM

Comments (0)

By Christina Killion Valdez
Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

Amanda Wondrow knows what it's like to be represented by a public defender. Now, she's on the other side of the briefcase.

After her mother's death and before becoming a teen mother, Wondrow, 21, said she had some problems with the law. Yet, through Summer Youth Connections, a Minnesota Workforce Center program that uses stimulus dollars to provide work readiness training and jobs for at-risk youth, Wondrow is working at the Public Defender's office.

"It's changed my life," she said. "It's not just a job -- it's a career."

Getting to this point, however, has taken some work.

In a tight economy, a criminal background of any sort compounds the difficulty of finding jobs for young people, said Jeremy Hildman, youth counselor at the WorkForce Center in Rochester.

"Even if it's an isolated incident, it really affects the rest of their life in trying to get employment," he said.

Stimulus dollars

To help, about $16.1 million in stimulus dollars was committed through the Youth Recovery Act to pay the salaries of young adults ages 14 to 24. Most of the jobs are at nonprofit or government organizations where youths can work up to 40 hours a week for $7.25 per hour, Hildman said.

The funding has enabled 5,650 young people in Minnesota to find work this summer. It's also helped cash-strapped employers bring in workers, with the stipulation that the youth don't replace or displace regular workers.

All participants attend a two-week job training program, for which they are paid a stipend and bonus. At the end of the training, they are matched to a work site that fits their interests, Hildman said.

Wondrow is one of more than 100 young people who have already gone through the program this year in Rochester, with more expected by the end of the summer, he said.

Based on her career assessment, Hildman sought a job for Wondrow at the public defenders office.

There she's come to understand the enormous case loads and tremendous pressures public defenders work under.

"They do as much as they can do," she said of the attorneys.

On the job training

For her part, Wondrow said she evaluates clients in the juvenile and adult detention centers to see how they can get help rather than go to prison, she said.

And while she was originally hired to work 200 hours, her job was extended to up to 600 hours, she said. Now, she'll be able to continue working even after she starts classes next month at Rochester Community and Technical College to become a human service specialist.

Able to look back at her life now, Wondrow said although her past has been difficult, it helped make her future possible.

Her mother died of cancer when Wondrow was 16. After that she bounced around living with her stepfather and boyfriend, who later got into drugs, she said. At age 19, she found out she was pregnant.

"She saved my life," Wondrow said of her now 14-month-old daughter. "I don't know what I would have done without her."

Wondrow's supervisor, Donavan Bailey, dispositional adviser for the 3rd District Public Defenders Office, agreed that Wondrow's history helped prepare her for what can be a demanding job working with people convicted of homicide, drug dealing or who are chemically dependent.

"She's come from some of that background. In that way she's worked out really well," he said. "She can relate to the clientele and their situations."

She also has the skills needed to work with lawyers, judges and other professionals, he said.

"She had some skill and passion for social work and is doing well," he said.

YOUTH JOB CORPS – YOUNG ADULTS SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SUMMER ACADEMY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

!!!! EARN AN HOURLY WAGE WHILE YOU EARN A CERTIFICATION !!!!

HOW?

- You must be between the ages of 18-24
- You must live in Ramsey County
- Download an Youth Job Corps-Young Adult application at this link: http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=3208

  Complete and submit the application online **by June 28th, 2009** or apply at the orientation
- Attend the EMS Summer Academy Orientation **June 29th, 8:30 am @ the Ramsey County Courthouse, Conference Room 40 A&B, Lower Level.** You must bring a picture ID and your social security card.
- **Interview for acceptance into the academy at the orientation**
- Learn of other potential employment opportunities once you have applied to the Youth Job Corps-Young Adult Program
- If accepted into the EMS Academy, you will attend class and be paid an hourly wage of $7.50 per hour, for up to 25 hours a week, for 10 weeks, based on attendance and participation.
- **When you successfully** complete the 10 weeks of training you will earn a certificate in Emergency Medical Services and can become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

What does an EMT do? Where can an EMT work? and What are the income earnings I can expect as a certified EMT?

- EMT's can be employed in hospitals, medical organizations, municipalities, assisted living facilities, factories, with paramedics, fire departments,…

- EMT Certification is required to be eligible for future paramedic training and to be hired as a Saint Paul Firefighter

- An EMT has the opportunity for advancement. There are a number of promotional opportunities and related positions including supervisors, instructors, dispatchers, and administrative directors. Sometimes an EMT will move into nursing or become a physician's assistant. Some even become physicians.

- In 2008, about 80 percent of EMTs and paramedics earned between $19,000 and $49,000.

- The top-paying employers for EMTs are state governments at about $46,000 median per year, and medical or diagnostic laboratories and home health care services at about $41,000.

!!!!! Earn while you learn !!!!!

Emergency Medical Technician - and Firefighter Awareness

!!!! EARN AN HOURLY WAGE WHILE YOU EARN A CERTIFICATION !!!!

Summer Session: 20 applicants accepted / Fall Session: 20 applicants accepted

Tuition is free to those who apply and are eligible for the Youth Job Corps-Young Adult Program

How do I apply?

Attend the information orientation on **June 29th 8:00 am –12:00 pm,** Ramsey County Court House, 15 West Kellogg, Room 40 A&B

When would the academy begin?

Start Date:	**Monday, July 6, 2009**
End Date:	**Saturday September 13, 2009**
Class Location:	**100 E. 11th Street, Saint Paul, MN. 55102**
Meets:	**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 – 4:30 pm**
Instruction:	**Provided by Inver Hills Community College and Century College**

Conducted by City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Inver Hills Community College, and Century College and hosted by The St. Paul Fire Department

*For **more** **information** about the **EMS Academy** and* the Youth **Job Corps Young Adults Program** call 651-266-8900

Press Release

July 13, 2009

Contact: James Lockwood, james.lockwood@stpaul.gov, 651.266.8571 (o),

651.226.7708 (m)

Saint PaulLaunches First-in-the-State Program to Attract Minority Youth to EMS, Firefighting Careers Pilot academy allows young adults to earn while they learn

SAINT PAUL– A new Emergency Medical Services Academy will open doors for young adults from low-income households to careers in EMS and firefighting while helping Saint Paul close the achievement gap for students of color and women.

The first-in-the-state program – an extension of Mayor Chris Coleman's Ready for School, Ready for Life education initiative – is a pilot that will pay 40 participants up to 25 hours a week while they go through one of two 10-week emergency medical technician certification programs. The academy is designed to provide opportunities for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 to learn job skills and qualify them to take the firefighter test in Saint Paul, broadening the pool of applications for the fire department.

"We have a fire department in Saint Paul that is second to none, and we want to make sure that the professionals who make up our department reflect our diverse community. People often express a desire to join their ranks, but in this economy, few people can afford to quit their jobs and pay for training," Mayor Chris Coleman said. "This pilot project is a stepping stone that gives participants a leg up by offering a paid training that will provide valuable skills and lead to EMT certification."

"The City of Saint Paul – along with a variety of public and private partners – plays a critical role in providing employment to young people preparing to enter the workforce and building career skills. By leveraging the opportunities available from several of those programs, we've created a unique program that will pay young adults from our neighborhoods to learn a life-saving skill, earn a professional certification, overcome a significant financial hurdle into the workforce, and compete for high paying jobs in health care, education, and the fire service," Fire Chief Tim Butler said.

A collaboration among Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and Inver Hills and Century community colleges, the pilot academy will hold classes three days a week. Students will be paid $7.50 an hour, based on attendance and participation, up to 25 hours each week. After successfully completing the training, participants will receive a certificate in Emergency Medical Services and qualify to take the EMT certification exam.

According to the state Department of Employment and Economic Development's 2006 projections, the need for EMTs and paramedics was expected to grow nearly 18 percent in the next decade. A 2008 Longitudinal Emergency Medical Technician Attributes & Demographics Study found that only 28 percent of EMTs and paramedics are women and less than 25 percent are people of color nationwide.

"Saint Paul firefighters are called on every day to assist people from different cultures, who speak different languages and practice different religions – and the clock is always ticking," said Councilmember Melvin Carter III, who secured support for the academy and actively recruited young adults to take advantage of the pilot program.

"For us a diverse, multilingual fire department isn't just nice to have, it is absolutely critical to sustain the high quality public safety services our department is known for."

"This initiative strengthens our community's economic capacity, access to new careers, and participation in a workforce that has promotional opportunities across many fields. The academy is the start of a new beginning that will have a generational impact for many of these families," said Luz María Frías, director of Saint Paul's Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO). "We are grateful to all of the partners that made this happen."

Financial support for this initiative was secured from The Saint Paul Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, Greater Twin Cites United Way, and The Otto Bremer Foundation as well as Allina Medical Transport, Fire Fighters United of Saint Paul, the Fire Supervisors Association and the Saint Paul NAACP. In addition, Saint Paul City Councilmembers Carter, Kathy Lantry, Russ Stark and Pat Harris each designated a portion of their COPP funds to make the academy possible.

As part of Mayor Coleman's education initiative, the Emergency Medical Services Academy extends to older students and young adults workforce development and job skills training opportunities outside of the traditional classroom. With the health care sector representing one of the largest employment growth areas in the city, the academy is opening doors to living wage jobs for young adults growing up and living in Saint Paul.

"Our hospitals in Saint Paul have provided a huge growth sector for our economy. This academy will position our young adults for successful careers – with good pay and good benefits – in our hospitals, clinics, and fire department," Mayor Coleman said.

Diversification is aim of EMS program in St. Paul

Women, minorities underrepresented

By Lien Hoang
lhoang@pioneerpress.com
TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

Updated:07/13/2009 10:37:29 AM CDT

If someone nearby had known CPR, Candis Moore said, her daughter's father probably would be alive.

Michael McBride suffocated under 12 feet of debris at work last year. Now that Moore is learning cardiopulmonary resuscitation through a new Emergency Medical Services Academy, there's a sense of homage to McBride.

"I knew this was a good opportunity anyway, but that's what kind of inspired me," said Moore, 23, as she took a break from pumping life into a mannequin.

The 10-week EMS program was launched Monday at the St. Paul Fire Department headquarters. The pilot program is training 22 young adults — 16 of them female — to qualify for an emergency medical technician exam. The idea is to get more underrepresented communities in emergency medical services, though the program officially targets low-income groups.

Instructor Dave Page has been working for two decades to diversify emergency medical services, which is overwhelmingly comprised of white males.

In 1993, 80 percent of paramedics and basic EMTs in Minnesota were white males, according to the state Health Department. Of 32 firefighters surveyed, only one wasn't a white male, and of 183 people who were both firefighters and EMTs, just six were white females and three were black males. The rest were white males.

Since then, Page said, the numbers have remained "scarily the same."

He's hoping things will be different with this class, made up largely of black students, plus a handful of Hispanics.

Most in the program agree that a primary, long-term benefit would be to have EMTs, paramedics and firefighters that all communities could identify with.

Tou Vang, an instructor and paramedic, described being able to better calm the people he served when they were Hmong, because they could relate to him.

"It's like an unspoken link," Tou Vang said.

He added a second benefit, recalling times when he entered a house where no one spoke English. That's when his fluency in Hmong came in handy, and he's trying to encourage other minority groups to join the ranks.

"It's always important when serving a community to reflect that community," said Tou Vang, who still gets the occasional 3 a.m. phone call to help with translation.

It's what St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler calls a lack of "cultural competence."

He said firefighters encounter language barriers daily, making due with gestures or talking to people through their

children.

"It's not enough," Butler said.

His department proposed the academy more than a month ago. Soon, the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and Inver Hills Community College came on board.

About a dozen sponsors generated more than $50,000. The money covers the training — which the students otherwise would have to pay for — as well as the $7.50 per hour each student receives as a wage.

It also will cover a second 10-week session for another group of students beginning in September.

As for this batch of students, they should have earned CPR certification this week. Other training includes ambulance ride-alongs, workout regimens and written practice exams.

Page emphasized that this is just the pilot project, and he welcomed donations to keep the EMS Academy going — and expanding. Donors can contact Luz Maria Frias, the city's director of human rights and equal economic opportunity, at 651-266-8903.

For more information, go to www.ehs.net/emsacademy.

Lien Hoang can be reached at 651-228-5480.

MinnPost.com
A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO NEWS

St. Paul pilot program seeking more women and minority firefighters

By Joe Kimball | Published Mon, Jul 13 2009 10:50 am

St. Paul will pay 40 young people to take a 10-week emergency medical technician certification program, as a way to broaden the pool of firefighter applicants with more minorities and women.

"We have a fire department in St. Paul that is second to none, and we want to make sure that the professionals who make up our department reflect our diverse community. People often express a desire to join their ranks, but in this economy, few people can afford to quit their jobs and pay for training," Mayor Chris Coleman said. "This pilot project is a stepping stone that gives participants a leg up by offering a paid training that will provide valuable skills and lead to EMT certification."

The goal is to provide opportunities for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 to learn job skills and qualify them to take the firefighter test in St. Paul.

The program -- a collaboration among St. Paul, Ramsey County, and Inver Hills and Century community colleges -- will pay students $7.50 an hour to take the classes three days a week. They'll be paid based on attendance and participation, up to 25 hours each week.

Those who successfully complete the training will receive a certificate in Emergency Medical Services and qualify to take the EMT certification exam.

Financial support for this initiative came from The St. Paul Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, Greater Twin Cites United Way, and The Otto Bremer Foundation as well as Allina Medical Transport, Fire Fighters United of St. Paul, the Fire Supervisors Association and the St. Paul NAACP. In addition, St. Paul City Council Members Melvin Carter III, Pat Harris, Kathy Lantry and Russ Stark each designated money from their offices.

KARE11

Students get paid to learn to be lifesavers

Updated: 7/14/2009 8:23:09 PM

In these hard economic times, jobs can be tough to find, especially for young people who lack specialized training.

Through a first of its kind program, the city of St. Paul is trying to offer opportunity, especially to minority populations, while filling future gaps in a high-demand field.

The new program is called the Emergency Medical Services Academy. Participant Cris Bolanos says, "I thought, 'Wow, it's incredible.' I thought, 'There has to be some kind of catch or something to it.'"

Why? Well, not only is the education free, students are also getting paid $7.50 an hour for up to 25 hours a week. That's important to Bolanos who has two daughters who need day care. She had hoped for a career in health care but didn't have the finances needed.

She says, "I always wanted to but I didn't see how really I would get the chance or how I would get there." Now she's getting her chance.

The hope is that the Emergency Medical Services Academy will help attract more minorities to apply for the St. Paul Fire Department.

The city, along with Ramsey County and private partners, created the program so that low income students can be certified as EMT's, a requirement to become a St. Paul firefighter.

Luz Maria Frias, director of the Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity with the City of St. Paul, says, "On the orientation day, literally, we had standing room only. We had over 100 youth."

Academy student Alex Ojeda Collado says, "As soon as I heard about it I jumped on it real quick." There are currently more than 20 students in the program, which is exciting to instructor Dave Page with Inver Hills Community College. He says, "I have been trying to get more minorities into EMS for 20 of my 25 year career."

Why? Page says, "They need people who can speak languages and who can understand the culture[s.]"

This program is open to any low income resident of Ramsey County between the ages of 18 to 24 and the new session, for 20 more students, begins this fall. By then, these students should be EMT certified.

Ojeda Collado says, "I think I could be not only a better person but also extremely happy." If you want to participate in the St. Paul Emergency Medical Services Academy, or want to help support it, click here.

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NEWS RELEASE
PHOTOS ATTACHED
JUNE 26, 2009

LOCAL TEENS OPEN STORE

SQUAW LAKE – Recently, the Eagleview Community Foundation in Squaw Lake, Minnesota, decided they wanted to get teens more involved in the community. Mayor Toni Wilcox set to work on setting up a teen-run consignment store.

"I wanted to give teens something the community could say 'wow' about," she said.

Through a grant, the Foundation had enough money to start the project. However, they did not have enough money to pay interested teens for their time.

"We needed an incentive," Wilcox said. "We planned on giving out rewards, but we needed more. We knew a paycheck was what we needed."

Wilcox and the rest of the foundation found their salvation in the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training's Summer Youth employment program. The program is designed to assist 14-20 year olds in realizing what skills they have to offer in the workplace. Better yet, students employed through the Summer Youth employment program are paid by the Office of Job Training. Supervisors provide valuable work experience to teen workers.

Shelby Roosdett, 17, heard about the Summer Youth work opportunity from her principal at school. She quickly filled out an application and sent it in to Grand Rapids Career Counselor Judy Lundquist.

"I felt like it was one of those opportunities I just had to sign up for," she said. "It's hard to find work around here, especially for kids."

Michael Anthony Ingman, 19, also applied for the program. The teens quickly realized that they had found a job unlike any their peers had for the summer. They were going to open their own store: the Eagleview First Week Boutique.

According to Wilcox, the youth have been involved in every step of planning the business. They have contacted consigners around the state to help them stock their store. They have also assisted in writing business plans and leases, and earlier this month, Roosdett presented their business plan to the Squaw Lake City Council. Ingman joined, for moral support.

"Toni helped us write our presentation, but I was still a little nervous," Roosdett said.

Despite her nerves, Roosdett presented the business plan in a way that must have impressed the council. The Eagleview First Week Boutique project was approved.

Since then, the teens have been working as much and as quickly as possible to get their store ready. The group hopes to open their Highway 46 doors on July 1st.

"We have one month to get from nothing to open," Wilcox said.

With guidance from the Small Business Association, Boys and Girls Club of America, and the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, the teens have progressed smoothly. Wilcox says each of her employees has taken on different, unique tasks.

"The girls are enjoying choosing what clothing items will go in the store," she said. "Michael Anthony seems to prefer hauling boxes on those days."

The teens believe they have gained valuable work skills through the program. Among the benefits, they list business ownership skills, financial projection abilities, and communication skills.

"I am learning tons about business management while working here," Roosdett said. "It's perfect, because I plan to major in business management in college. I think this job will put me a step ahead of the other kids at college."

Like his coworker, Ingman also hopes to one day own his own business. Aside from the experience, he says he most values the fact that he is being productive at work.

"This is a good learning experience," he said.

As mayor of Squaw Lake, Wilcox is in close contact with the city's business owners, many of whom work with teens.

"They always tell me how lucky I am to have such good workers. They ask me how I found them," she said. "But it was just luck of the draw. The program sent me great kids."

As lucky as Wilcox was to find the right youth to help open the Eagleview First Week Boutique, the teens know they are lucky to have found the program that brought them to the boutique.

"Our job is so unique," Roosdett said. "We are teens opening our own store. How many other kids can say that?"

If you are interested in more information about the youth program, or any other program offered by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, please call 1-800-325-5332, or visit the website at www.jobtrainingmn.org. Grand Rapids Career Counselor Judy Lundquist can be reached at (218)-327-4480.

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Contact: Katy Kohlhase (218)-748-2209

Shelby Roosdet and Michael Anthony Ingman
fold baby clothes. The teens recently opened their own consignment store called the Eagleview First Week Boutique.

Posted: 29 Jul 2009 06:14 AM PDT
Columbia Missourian

Clothing and job preparation program intended to get youth hired

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT
BY Jenn Ballard

COLUMBIA — LaShonna Alexander, 18, wants to be a doctor. Through the help of The Intersection, an after-school and summer program for at-risk youth, she has taken early steps down that path by getting her first job.

"For some of us who have been here for a long time, (The Intersection) provides us with a place with a hot meal, a job and keeps us off the streets," said Alexander, who received an internship with Head Motors through the Intersection's resources.

"I liked that it gave me a future reference for other jobs," Alexander said. "It helped me learn how to look things up on the computer and communicate better with other people."

She hopes the work experience will also help her at Moberly Area Community College in the fall.

The Intersection is teaming up with The Salvation Army and Central Missouri Community Action to create "Dress for Success," a program that provides underprivileged young people with the clothes and job preparation to apply for work locally.

Through this combination of these three community agencies, their resources can be maximized to meet as many youth and young adults as possible, Salvation Army regional coordinator Maj. K. Kendall Mathews said.

"Our enemy is poverty," The Intersection executive director Dana Battison said.

At their first organizational meeting, the groups decided they will pay for two outfits to be purchased at Columbia thrift stores.

"We all have the entities and services to reach out to people who are struggling to even get a job at McDonald's," Mathews said. "We want to give them the resources that provide them an opportunity."

Mathews added that the Salvation Army teaches spiritual, physical, educational and psychological growth, with particular emphasis on the spiritual.

"The Bible says without a vision, our people will perish," Mathews said. "And I do not want our people to perish."

Until now, the organizations have had separate but similar programs. This summer, CMCA has helped 88 16- to 24-year-old students prepare for interviews, said Meg Rivers, who oversees the CMCA program called Next-Generation Jobs Team, which ends Sept. 30.

"We want to get the interviews in as soon as possible to get them into the working community," Rivers said.

Through Next-Generation Jobs Team, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly known as stimulus money, CMCA is helping with job skills and clothing to promote a professional appearance.

Rivers said they go with participants to Walmart stores in the area.

"We make sure everything they choose is appropriate," she said.

In the nine-hour training program, CMCA also provides job skills, such as how to work a cash register, basic computer training and how to build a proper resume, Rivers said.

"I think that the problem for most young people is they don't know something like this exists," she said.

Mathews stressed the importance of recognizing what self-improvements one needs to make.

"People who are wanting to be employed must figure out what employment skills they are lacking," he said, reinforcing Rivers' idea of adjusting to the work force.

The Intersection also aids young people in finding jobs or service work in the community, depending on their age, Battison said.

Ashley McWilliams, 13, aspires to be a fashion designer. In a development class, one of the many classes offered over the summer, she was able to design a fashion show, "Wear It Again," held on July 19, at which models wore used clothing.

"It was beautiful," McWilliams said. "I'm more familiar with things like that now so I can continue to do so in the future with more beauty and success."

Battison said that by working in the community, through service, work or both, young people will gain experience and hope.

"Part of the reason our young people lose focus is because they stop believing," she said.

Mathews' idea for the program came after he appeared on KOMU's "Pepper and Friends" for a Salvation Army fashion show similar in concept to the one held by The Intersection. One organizational meeting has been held so far, with more planned.

"This is something that will have a potential impact, even nationally," Mathews said. "Things are coming together quite nicely."

HANNIBAL·NET
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Joint venture to provide jobs for youths with disabilities

Posted Aug 13, 2009 @ 09:49 PM

Hannibal, MO —

This summer, Learning Opportunities/Quality Works, Inc.(LOQWI) is collaborating with Gamm, Inc., the Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and a number of local businesses to provide eight local youth with disabilities the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and earn their own money, often for the first time.

These youth (age 14-24) are part of the Next-Generation Jobs Team which is funded primarily through the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Through the partnership, local businesses provide temporary jobs to the youth and agree to mentor them by giving feedback on a number of factors related to their job performance and job keeping skills.

Before starting the program, the youth completed a 30-hour job readiness training focused on teaching job seeking skills and job retention techniques. The youth can work at the job until September 30, or until he or she reaches 320 hours of work. Local businesses participating and supporting the youth with disabilities are Joe's Diner, Beth Haven Nursing Home, The Opened Book, NEMO Humane Society, The Dugout Sports Shop, Badger Cheese Haus, Ralls Co. School District, and Concord Custom Cleaners.

For the out-of-school-older youth, the goal of the program may be to receive training and/or services, which enhance the ability to obtain unsubsidized employment. For the younger in-school youth, the goal may be a variety of services geared towards career decision-making, hands-on experience in several career areas, or any number of other services, which allow you the opportunity to make good decisions about your future goals.

It is the mission of Learning Opportunities/Quality Works, Inc. to positively impact the lives of individuals through support, advocacy and connection to resources. At the beginning of the summer, LOQW, Inc. guided

local youth with disabilities through the application process. Eight individuals were accepted into the program and began their job readiness training shortly thereafter. Once the training was complete, the youth were placed at a site that matched their job interests. At the beginning of the placements, a majority of the youth were provided with a job coach to assist in their success at the workplace. Job coaching is the service provided to an individual and their employer. The goal of this service is to assist and train the individuals in becoming acclimated to their job, co-workers, social climate, and place of employment to become a valued member of the team. Job coaches are still in place at half of the worksites to ensure continuous success.

Research from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University has shown that for every $1 a teen earns, it has an accelerator of $3 in the local economy. Not only is The Next-Generation Jobs Team helping the nation as a whole, but it is also providing a vital learning experience for disadvantaged youth. The skills, networking, and career-building opportunities that these youth are gaining are irreplaceable.

The Daily News Online

Full Employment Council extends youth program

Brenda Jensen, *News reporter*
08-24-2009

So far the Full Employment Council's youth program, "Next Generation," has provided over 60 county youth with jobs this summer.

With funds still available, the FEC is extending its program.

"This will be for our older youth, ages 18-24," said Carol Vanbibber, Career Development Executive II – Coordinator. "The jobs will last from six to eight weeks, working a 30 or 40-hour work week, for a total of 240 hours of employment."

Flexibility in length of employment was necessary due to different hours of the various businesses participating. The program will conclude at the end of March 2010.

Participants take a few tests to determine interests and abilities prior to placement. Vanbibber said more than 60 youth, ages 16 to 24, within Ray County have been working since May at jobs within the county.

Youth were placed in jobs at Ray County Museum, Shirkey Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Continental Siding, Ideal Industries, Good Samaritan Center, Ray County Fellowship Center, Rosie's Daycare, Richmond Housing, Excelsior Springs Hospital and Nursing Home, City of Richmond, Richmond School District and Richmond Daycare Center.

Vanbibber said the summer youth program will begin again next summer, but probably will be limited to youth ages 16 to 21.

Southeast Missourian

Area students to get funding and support to build robots

Tuesday, August 4, 2009
By Alaina Busch ~ Southeast Missourian

Area high school students will get the chance to test their engineering and problem-solving skills with a new extracurricular activity this fall.

The WIRED Initiative of the Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri and Southeast Missouri State University are teaming up to help area high schools form competitive robot building teams.

The initiative will give up to $1,500 in funding per school and Southeast will provide technical support throughout the process.

Janet Witter, manager of the WIRED Initiative, said she hopes to get participation from 10 to 15 schools throughout the region. Schools will form teams of four to 10 students who will build a robot. They will compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge, a robotics competition for high school students in St. Louis in December.

Teams will have about two months to construct and program the robot, she said.

"They have to work as a team on deadlines," Witter said. "A lot of good workplace kind of skills go into it."

The WIRED Initiative will buy robot starter kits, which cost about $1,000, and cover entrance fees, she said. Southeast instructors will train mentors to guide students through the construction and programming of a robot.

John Dudley, an instructor in the College of Industrial and Engineering Technology, said he hopes local industries will participate in the program. Representatives from industrial businesses can work with the teams during the project, he said.

"It means better employees for them down the road," he said.

By mid September, the teams will receive guidelines for the competition outlining what tasks the robot should accomplish. From there, students put their mechanical, computer and electrical engineering skills to the test.

The robots illustrate the interesting aspects of science and technology, Dudley said.

"It's not all formulas and algorithms," he said.

There will be two information sessions from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 11 and 13 for school and industry representatives. The sessions will be held at Missouri centers in Cape Girardeau, Portageville, Poplar Bluff and Park Hills through a teleconference.

Attendees should register by Friday with Witter at 334-0990 or Dudley at 576-2741.

abusch@semissourian.com

388-3627

Program helps cities, youth

By DawnDee Bostwick
Waynesville Daily Guide
Wed Jul 08, 2009, 11:33 AM CDT

Notice that St. Robert's green areas seem to be a lot more clean cut recently or that the median along Missouri Avenue isn't harboring knee-deep weeds anymore?

It's no coincidence that the city's "beautification" came around the time four youths joined the St. Robert Public Works staff.

Three of the youths are employed as part of a summer youth program, which provides $3 million for eight Missouri counties to invest in employment opportunities.

The program isn't new, but it was halted in 2000 by a Congressional decision. Renewed this year, the program has put 96 people to work at 54 operating sites in the region.

"It's putting people ages 14 to 24 to work who are unemployed," Jim Dickerson, who is with the Workforce Investment Board, which runs the program, said. "It also, due to the nature of the program, give a choice as to what type of work they would be doing."

That's great news for those who went through the program, because instead of being "placed" they get to have a voice in what they want to do.

"It's fun," AJ Quinlan, one of the youths working for St. Robert this summer, said. "It's not really hard, it's more easy than anything and you get a lot of exercise."

Quinlan isn't alone in his opinion. All the youths said they love what they do and enjoy being able to work outdoors.

"We always have fun while we work," Michael Schonbok said.

And Mat Schimer knows what he'd be doing if the youth employment program didn't exist—"Sitting at home, watching TV."

The benefit isn't just for the youth, however. Yes, they get to explore career fields, get an understanding of what it means to put in a day's work and save money for later in life.

But the employers win big, too. They get the benefit of fresh ideas and extra help without having to pay for it. The program provides the salaries for the youth during their time of employment.

"(It) frees up employees who don't have to be out cutting grass. They can be out fixing streets," City Administrator Alan Clark said, explaining that the youths provide additional hands in needed areas, meaning other employees can focus efforts elsewhere.

And the drive and enthusiasm that the summer hires bring to the job is something that money can't purchase.

"You can't put a dollar amount on that," Clark said.

And while the kids are mowing St. Robert's 18 plus miles of grass, Clark is quick to remind people that the work the youth is doing is something they can be proud of.

"It's not menial stuff that they're doing," he said. "It's very productive."

GreatFallsTribune.com

Stimulus creates summer jobs for teens

BY ZACHARY FRANZ • TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER • JULY 8, 2009

For many teens, the hardest part of summer is finding a way to stay busy. Thanks to federal stimulus dollars, 15-year-old Colette Spangler's biggest challenge is wrenching knapweed out of the ground.

Spangler, of Great Falls, is working through Montana's Youth Summer Employment Program — one channel of the federal government's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

She has spent the past couple of weeks maintaining the River's Edge Trail — learning which plants are actually weeds, picking up garbage and clearing brush. The job pays minimum wage and it's not glamorous work, but she doesn't mind. Like all participants, she worked with administrators to find a job that suits her interests and abilities.

"I got this job because I love being outdoors," she said. "I like it a lot."

Besides, she's thinking of the payoff. Spangler plans to spend her earnings on a car and put some toward a trip to Mexico next summer for her cousin's 15th birthday celebration.

Country and counties

In Montana, the Youth Summer Employment Program should put about 700 teens and young adults to work in summer jobs that otherwise wouldn't exist, said Suzanne Ferguson, the Workforce Investment Act unit supervisor for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

The Department of Labor and Industry is spending about $2.4 million in the state, mostly to pay the young workers' wages, Ferguson said. That money is being routed through organizations in 10 cities, and will make its way into all 56 Montana counties, she said.

In Great Falls, the nonprofit Opportunities Inc. is administering the program in five counties: Cascade, Pondera, Teton, Toole and Glacier. Their share of the budget is about $300,000, said Curt Campbell, program director of the Workforce Services Division of Opportunities Inc.

Labor and Industry already has a similar program that runs all year, but it has a smaller budget and employs fewer people. The Summer Youth Employment Program is essentially a big boost to what's already in place, Ferguson said.

Skills to pay the bills

Devon Dunham, 14, is using some of his summer earnings to pay his cell phone bill. Like most kids his age, Dunham doesn't have much work experience. In a tough economy, people like Dunham have the hardest time competing for available jobs.

The Youth Employment Program makes it possible for him to keep on texting. It is specifically targeted at people ages 14 to 24 who don't make a lot of money and have barriers to employment, like children to care for, disabilities or a lack of education or experience.

Dunham isn't wild about getting up early all summer, but he's already learned to identify noxious weeds from Doug Wicks, president of the nonprofit Recreational Trails Inc.

That might not be a career-launching ability, but Campbell believes the kids are gaining valuable experience about job responsibilities.

"Work ethics ... I guess that's my baby," he said. "I really stress that to the kids. If you need to be to work at 8, be there at 8."

The program also teaches more tangible skills for getting jobs. Last week, there was an all-day workshop to teach participants how to fill out applications, write cover letters and put together resumes, Campbell said.

Green and new

Besides the trail work, the program has placed workers in clerical jobs, dishwashing positions and a variety of other tasks, Ferguson said. But the federal government wants as many as possible in "green jobs" that make some contribution to the environment.

In the Great Falls area, three participants are working to weatherize homes for low-income people, so less energy and less money go into heating and cooling the houses. Campbell said he expects to put more teens into weatherizing jobs.

To make sure the program is actually boosting the economy — not just filling jobs that could go to somebody else — Labor and Industry wants all the participants to go into "new" positions, Ferguson said.

For restaurants that get dishwashers through the program, it's a free extra employee.

If Spangler and the rest of her crew weren't pulling weeds by the trail, nobody else would be. At least, nobody who was getting paid.

That means there are more jobs, and the community benefits from a nicer trail system.

Dunham, who will be a high school freshman this fall, said if he wasn't out working on the trail, he knows right where he would spend his summer mornings.

"Sleeping," he said. "But I'd rather be doing this than that."

Citizen-Times.com

Camps prepare students for careers

BY ASHLEY WILSON • JULY 9, 2009 03:44 PM

ASHEVILLE — Instead of watching TV or playing on the computer over summer break, students across Buncombe County are preparing for their futures.

Programs across the area — including one funded by federal economic stimulus dollars — are using the summer to expose students to career possibilities while giving them viable workplace skills and training the area's next generation of workers.

From construction to healthcare to metals manufacturing, hundreds of students are learning about real work this summer, lessons that may give them an edge when they enter the job market for real.

"We hope students get exposed to healthcare careers and what's expected of a professional from behavior to experience," said Tarik Glenn, a workforce development specialist for Mission Hospitals, echoing the sentiments of many career camp organizers.

"It's not just serving burgers and fries," he said. "It's something that's more relevant and they can use again."

Finding role models

For Glenn, a part-time job at a retail store, fast-food restaurant or grocery chain can't offer the kind of learning experience available through the hospital system's program, known as Mission Possible.

Students in the program report to the hospital five days a week. They tour 25 departments over the course of their internship and are also educated on résumé development, dining etiquette, professional dress and appropriate communication. Students also get CPR and first-aid certification.

Like Mission Possible, most of the area's summer career programs offer students career skills that are helpful in any job setting.

"They are not in a setting surrounded by other teenagers, so they benefit from that role model, mentoring," said Erika Germer, coordinator for the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Program (CAYLA).

The 3-year-old CAYLA program places Asheville High students in eight-week internships with city agencies and nonprofits. Each students has a supervisor who also serves as a mentor.

The program provides students with college application assistance, academic coaching, college scholarship help and money management skills.

Money management is another skill many of the summer programs strive to teach their participants.

When students in Buncombe County Schools' Summer Youth Employment program got their first paychecks, counselors helped them understand what the numbers on their pay stubs truly meant.

"I have 28 students and for 75 percent of them this was their first payday — the first time they had ever seen a check with their name on it," said Jim Galloway, Summer Youth Employment Counselor.

Lifelong skills

Funded by federal economic stimulus dollars, the program has placed 81 Buncombe County and 20 Asheville City students and recent graduates in jobs with government agencies and nonprofits this summer.

Like many of the summer career camps, the program focuses on students who would have a hard time finding employment, especially in a professional setting. To enter the Summer Youth Employment program students must come from a low-income family or have a disability.

"It's a new experience, said Natanya Wilson-Taylor. "It's opened up my eyes to many doors I thought back in 10th grade would never be open."

Wilson-Taylor will continue working at Pisgah Legal Services after the summer is over. She plans to take criminal justice courses at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and become an advocate for juveniles.

Her story is one organizers want to hear more often. Many hope that students turn the summer programs into a lifelong career.

At Asheville High this summer 13 rising ninth-graders are learning how to use sandblasters, buffer and mill machines through the Dream It, Make It Metals Camp. The program is striving to get students interested in the high school's metal engineering program so they can take advantage of the classes when they begin school there.

Both UNC Asheville and A-B Tech have metal manufacturing programs students can feed into.

"I like getting to use the machines and make cool things," Jesse Griffin said. "I've always been a little interested, but I'm more interested now."

By exposing students to career opportunities, local employers are also hoping students will stay or return to Asheville for work.

"The goal ultimately for the hospital is to promote healthcare careers so they will come back to Mission to work as a professional in Asheville so they know there are opportunities at Mission," Glenn said. "They do not have to go to Atlanta or Charlotte or a bigger city."

http://www.news14.com/content/local_news/charlotte/612861/community-colleges-launch-new-job-training-programs/Default.aspx

News14.com

08/04/2009 05:51 PM

Community colleges launch new job training programs

By: Heather Waliga

Then come back here and refresh the page.

CHARLOTTE – Community colleges across the state announced that they will use federal stimulus money to create job training programs for thousands of people who've been laid off in the hopes of putting them on the fast track to finding work.

It's part of the governor's Jobs Now program and the Workforce Investment Act that was announced earlier this year.

Students can sign up for everything from plumbing to welding, putting them on the fast track to entry level jobs they might not otherwise have been able to get.

And the announcement comes at a critical time for community colleges.

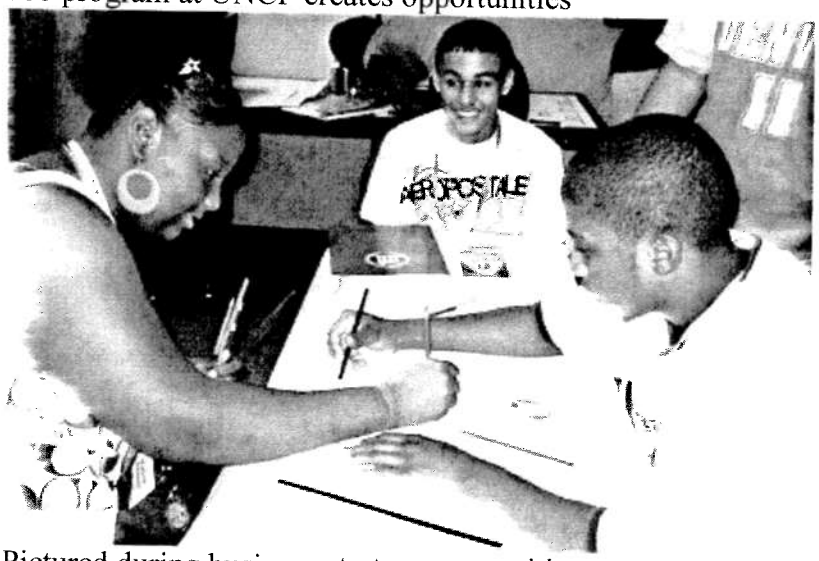
Many expect soaring enrollment numbers this fall to accompany shrinking budgets.

"There are a lot of people struggling, and they know that they need the skills to get the job, but they don't have the dollars to pay tuition, and so the beauty of this program is most people will qualify for free tuition," Central Piedmont Community College President Dr. Tony Zeiss said.

Anyone who doesn't qualify for free tuition can still pay to take the classes.

Richmond County Daily Journal - Rockingham, NC, USA
Posted: 23 Jul 2009 04:56 AM PDT

Job program at UNCP creates opportunities



Pictured during business start-up competition are Jacatherine McLaughlin of Red Springs, Christopher Graham of Rowland and Jakell Thompson of St. Pauls.

PEMBROKE — In a tight job market, summer jobs for teens are scarce.

An eight-week Summer Youth Employment Program at UNC Pembroke is helping to fill the gap by providing employment for 140 local youth. The University received a grant through the Lumber River Council of Governments for $411,796 funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"We had more than 1,100 applications," said Sylvia Pate, director of the Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development. "It is our understanding that we are the only UNC university hosting a program like this and actually, we also administer a year round youth program."

The teens, ages 14 – 18, spent the week of June 22 – 26, in career development courses at the Regional Center. They could choose from programs in health, science, biotechnology, entrepreneurship and information technology.

Then, they fanned out to employers for paid internships across the county.

"We had excellent participation from employers who signed up online," Pate said. "UNCP will serve as a worksite for 20 workers across campus."

Most of the internships are with local governments, schools and non-profits including the Agricultural Extension Service, county parks and recreation and the Center for Community Action in Lumberton. Some will work outdoors but many have "white collar" jobs in offices.

On Friday, the students were studying genetics in UNCP's Biotechnology Center, visiting the

Lumberton water plant, learning about health lifestyles, building Web sites and starting new businesses.

"The old Converse plant is closed," said Jacatherine McLaughlin of Red Springs. "Our plan is to re-open it with a new twist in fashion for a new generation."

"We won the prize yesterday for the best new business idea," said Christopher Graham of Rowland.

The students were eager to explain their ideas and to see their first paychecks.

"This is my first paycheck ever," said TJ, a.k.a. Thomas Jones of Lumberton. "I'm saving up for a car."

As part of the federal "stimulus" plan, many others had plans to inject their paychecks into the local economy but many were also going to plan on how best to spend their paychecks.

"I will spend it on school clothes and help my little sister too," McLaughlin said.

Dr. Charles Harrington, UNCP's provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs said the University was in the right place at the right time to offer this program.

"The funding for this particular program from the Lumber River Council of Governments could not have come at a more opportune time for these students," Dr. Harrington said. "With the downturn in the economy, the Summer Youth Employment Program not only provides students with modest summer employment experiences and income, it provides them with an opportunity to see first-hand, the impact that the state and national economies are having on Southeastern North Carolina.

"This program will also benefit a number of regional employers who have also felt the harsh sting of workforce reductions," he said.

For information about the Summer Youth Employment Program or other programs at the Regional Center, please contact them at (910) 775-4000 or email rc@uncp.edu.

The Mount Airy News
Stimulus helps youths and employers
by Tom Joyce
8/17/09

Tom Joyce/The News Polly Long coordinated the Summer Youth Employment Program, which involved 239 youths placed at 129 work sites.

When she first began looking for a summer job, Venessa Garcia, 16, found the prospects bleak.

She submitted applications to about 15 local businesses, with no success. "They didn't even call me back or anything," Garcia recalled in an interview Friday.

However, the North Surry High School student's quest for work ended happily, thanks to the Summer Youth Employment Program funded by the federal stimulus package.

Through the program, summer jobs were provided for Garcia and around 238 other young people in Surry County at 129 different work sites, including businesses, governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. They have worked 20 hours per week at minimum wage.

While those in the targeted age group of 16 to 24 have received a tax-free paycheck, the employers hiring them have benefited from free labor provided courtesy of the federal government program aimed at sparking the economy.

"Definitely for me, there have been no negatives," said Steve Talley, owner of Talley's Custom Frame and Gallery in downtown Mount Airy, where Garcia landed a job preparing photographs and artwork for framing.

A similar response came from another part of town at radio station WSYD, where Jonathan Lightfoot has spent the summer.

In order to return to college, Lightfoot, 21, a rising junior at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, completed his work at the station Friday, which encompassed tasks ranging from preparing bills for mailing to announcing, producing commercials and other tasks.

"He's taken a big load off of us," said WSYD owner Kelly Epperson. "It's definitely been a great move having him here this summer, and I wish he wasn't going back to school so soon."

Like Garcia, summer employment possibilities for Lightfoot weren't promising and had it not been for the stimulus program, "I probably would have been sitting at home doing nothing," he admitted last week.

Instead, students such as Lightfoot and Garcia — who had never held a job before — have gained valuable experience as well as money to help with school-related expenses, clothing and other needs.

"I've got a bunch of money saved up from it," said Wesley Hall, a 16-year-old student at East Surry High who began work on June 29 at Clyde Fulk Exxon on East Main Street in Pilot Mountain.

Hall has changed oil, rotated tires, installed new tires and handled similar duties at the station, and added that part of the cash he's earned probably will help pay for work needed on a 1973 Plymouth Duster he owns.

But the East Surry student also is looking to the future, saying that he wants to attend Nashville Diesel School after high school. Those long-range plans conformed well with his summer job at Clyde Fulk Exxon.

"It was a good career opportunity for me," Hall added. "I enjoy working on cars."

Owen Fulk of the Exxon outlet said that the 20 hours Hall has spent there each week have enabled him to cover for other employees on vacation. The youth has mastered the various maintenance services offered at the business, he said.

"He's been a real good asset for us," Fulk said of Hall, adding that the youth might continue working there part-time after school begins.

Meanwhile, Deborah Bishop, general manager of the Creekside Cinemas in Mount Airy, had job openings for two youths there this summer, Xavier Stillman and Andrew Stouch. They handled ticket sales, ushering and helped out a lot with a free summer movie series for kids, Bishop said, and were especially useful during busy Friday nights at the theater.

"It's worked very well," Bishop said of the summer program. "They're both very nice young men — they've done very well."

The theater has received a boost from the extra workers. "It has helped because we do have

limits on the number of employees we can have here at any given time," the general manager said. "With two extra hands in addition to those that we have, that has really made things a lot easier."

Response "Amazing"

Such success stories are exactly what officials hoped to accomplish this summer with the countywide jobs effort, according to Polly Long, its coordinator.

"When I start talking about this, I get so excited," Long said of the program, adding that it was aided by recruiters in Surry's three school systems and the community college as well as other agencies. Those include the state Employment Security Commission and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the local Workforce Development Center and Jones Family Resource Center.

"I feel very good about what we have done and how many people we have served," Long said of the 239 youths and 129 work sites participating at last report. "I think that is amazing."

"I could not fill all the work sites — we had so many more work sites where people were requesting kids," the coordinator said.

Long also was grateful for the help of the Workforce Development Board of the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments based in Winston-Salem, through which the stimulus dollars for the jobs program were funneled.

Though the youths actually started work around the first of the summer, Long said many months of planning preceded their punching a clock for the first time.

Youths were prepared by participating in the WorkKeys system, which ensures they possess the core job skills desired by employers. The achieving of a Career Readiness Certificate through the program verifies that a would-be applicant can handle the kind of tasks common in today's workplaces. Those include finding information, reading instructions and directions or working with figures.

"It is a national certification that they always have," Long said.

Students were taught how to conduct themselves during interviews and other basic requirements in the workplace, such as proper dress and behavior. Program officials sought to match youths with jobs they had an interest in or which perhaps mirrored career goals, Long said.

After being assigned to positions, the youths were overseen by a team of career facilitators who have visited work sites and provided support. The facilitators are Scott Kniskern, Lisa Hartness, Lisa Cline, Christy Thompson, Paula Brinkley and Justin Gammons.

Youth Learns Lessons

Employers who participated in the summer jobs program were rewarded with a pool of well-

prepared applicants with mature attitudes and good work ethics, based on comments from officials of WSYD and other businesses.

"We put him right to work," Epperson, the radio station owner, said of Lightfoot. "He started licking envelopes." Epperson explained that the new worker appeared at the time billing statements were being mailed by the station.

"When it's time to get bills out, you drop everything," he continued. "He started filling and stuffing envelopes and stamping and licking. He recognized that was the most important thing."

Lightfoot admitted that he has learned much from his first work experience, whether that has included reading weather forecasts over the air, doing live interviews, recording commercials — or simply answering the telephone or pulling obituaries off the fax machine.

He also has helped the station with a requirement of logging all the country and Southern gospel songs it broadcasts.

"Debbie's had him on the air a whole lot," Epperson added in reference to Deborah Cochran, a co-worker of Lightfoot's at WSYD.

"Everywhere I go, people talk about listening to him," said Cochran, who added that Lightfoot's weather forecasts have proved especially popular. "He adds his little flair to it and makes it fun to listen to."

Lightfoot said he's realized the need to always be aware on the job and to try to stay a step ahead with the varied tasks involved, along with "learning how to run back and forth very fast."

"It gets a little hectic," he said.

"I've learned that it's always better to do your work and do it completely, so the person behind you doesn't have to take up your slack," added Lightfoot, a 2007 Mount Airy High School graduate. This is important when shift changes occur at the station, with employees who are signing off getting commercials and other items ready for the next person who comes aboard as a courtesy.

Kathi Lightfoot, the mother of the job program participant, said she's seen big changes in her son as a result of his involvement.

"He's just become more responsible," she said. "It's part of watching him grow up from a boy to a man — I've seen that this summer."

Jonathan Lightfoot, who moved a lot in his younger days due to his mom being in the Navy, says he's also benefited by something else having nothing to do with money or job skills. That's being part of a group of people who've become like family to him.

"It's a very caring and loving environment," he said of the radio station that has about 12 full-

and part-time employees overall. "They are really kind and nice people."

Working at the station also fits in with the career goals of Lightfoot, a mellow-voiced young man who is majoring in theater with a minor in broadcasting. He would like to do voice-over work in the future for commercials or animated productions and possibly be employed again in the radio field.

Though he prefers rock and roll, Lightfoot also has an appreciation for artists whose songs sometimes are broadcast by WSYD, especially Willie Nelson.

Quick Learner

Steve Talley was equally impressed by the qualities Venessa Garcia brought to his Main Street frame shop.

"She's probably caught on quicker than anybody that's ever worked here," he said. In addition to assembling items into frames, Garcia must measure the glass to fit them, then cut it using a mechanical device.

"It does take a little bit of skill," Talley explained. "It can be intimidating."

Garcia, who admits being on the shy side, said she preferred to work in a low-key environment with nice people. Officials with the jobs program kept that in mind when placing her with Talley's Custom Frame and Gallery.

"They said he (Steve) was a real nice guy and would teach me without getting impatient."

"They've been really nice people and they've taught me a lot," the North Surry student added of the handful of employees there.

Along with her other duties, Garcia waits on customers at times and pitches in with "anything that Steve needs me to do."

Garcia's family includes a brother and sister, a mother who is employed at Wayne Poultry in Dobson and her father, a construction worker. "And when it rains or when it's cold, he doesn't have a job," Garcia said. So she gives part of her earnings to her parents to help with household expenses. Garcia also tries to help pay for clothing and other items she needs for school, "so they don't have to."

"I'm planning on saving some for college," the youth added of her earnings. "I want to be a pharmacist." With an eye toward the future, she has opted not to participate in extracurricular activities such as playing on her school's soccer team so she can concentrate on her grades. Garcia does like to play soccer in her spare time, however.

While working at the frame shop, Garcia said she has learned to pay attention to what her employers need from her and to listen. "What is the point of having a job in the first place if

you're not going to listen?" she said.

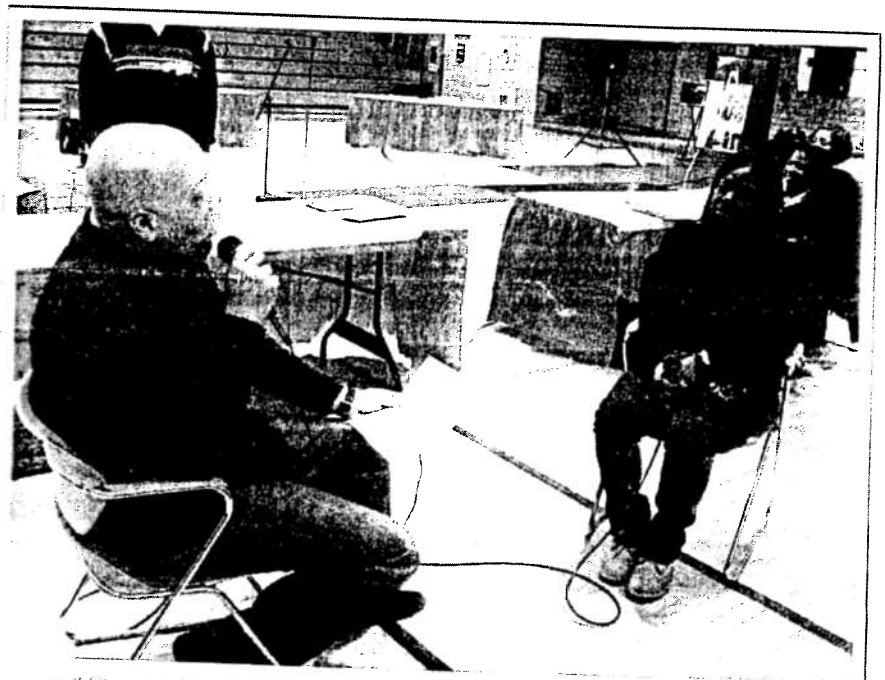
Talley said that due to Garcia possessing such qualities, he is hoping to employ the youth after the summer program ends. "I'm very proud to have her," he said.

Garcia said she appreciates not only being able to work at the frame shop, but the program that made it all possible.

Without the Summer Youth Employment Program, she said, "a lot of kids my age wouldn't have this opportunity."

Contact Tom Joyce at tjoyce@mtairynews.com or at 719-1924.

EAST ORANGE Record
"Your Best Source For Community Information"
ST ORANGE, N.J., VOL. 109 NO. 41 THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009 eastorange.localsource.com TWO SECTIO



East Orange student participates in a simulated interview during a Teen Jobs Week program at East
e Campus 9 School

Getting a head start on summer jobs

youths seek employment and learn skills through program

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

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EAST ORANGE Record
"Your Best Source For Community Information"
EAST ORANGE, N.J., VOL. 109 NO. 52 THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009 eastorange.localsource.com TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

Jobs program produces cooperation

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

City officials were looking to make a POWER move when it came to summer youth employment last week during a press conference in the Brick Church shopping center along Main Street.

Mayor Robert Bowser, along with U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, announced the kickoff of the annual "Let's Put Our Youth To Work" program. It again will receive support from the Colgate-Palmolive Company's Preparing Our World Through Education and Responsibility, or the POWER Initiative. Colgate-Palmolive partners with local governments to support youth-development and career-placement programs.

"The downturn in the economy affect jobs, especially teens, because more job seekers are competing for the low-skill jobs that were youth-oriented opportunities in the past, such as those in food services and retail," a spokeswoman for Bowser said.

Since 1990, Colgate-Palmolive has awarded grants to select cities to benefit their summer youth employment programs. The company, with added support from local retailers, has awarded more than $2.5 million in grants. Company officials said that has allowed approximately 350,000 youths to receive valuable job training and work experience.

One of those participants who went on to become a POWER success story was Tristen Wright of East Orange, who had nothing but good things to say about her experience in the program. She said it helped her with job searching, resume and cover-letter writing and interviewing techniques.

"As an introduction to the 'World of Work,' my first job was as a summer aide in the East Orange Public Library. During the following four summers I returned to the program, working in various places, including the East Orange Municipal Court," said Wright. "Not only did the Summer Work Experience Program provide me with my first job, but the program gave me the opportunity to develop skills such as office etiquette, resume building and work ethic."

Wright said she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in the biological sciences, with a minor in anthropology, at Rutgers University. She said she plans to attend medical school after she earns her diploma.

Colgate POWER is a youth employment program that company officials said provides young adults with summer jobs to build self-esteem, cultivate a work ethic and foster community pride. They said the program has been able to positively impact inner-city youth through the collaboration between Colgate-Palmolive and municipal governments.

This year, the program will also provide education and training in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Memphis, Houston, Los Angeles and Charlotte, N.C.

City officials said the corporate and local programs are a continuation of a municipal campaign which began with Teen Jobs Week during April. Since that time, young residents have had the opportunity to register for the city's summer employment program and work-readiness sessions in the Division of Employment and Training.

"The concept for the Teen Jobs Week was to have our youth participants get a jump-start on summer employment by being work-ready," said M.J. Peterson, who leads the division office. "They used their spring break in a positive way by attending work readiness sessions to have a competitive edge for the early job opportunities for the summer."

Residents can contact the Division of Employment and Training at 973-677-8914 for additional information about the POWER and other local programs.

VOANews.com

'Stimulus' Jobs Offer Skills, Paycheck to Disadvantaged Youth

By Carolyn Weaver
New York
05 August 2009

The new U.S. federal program that's meant to "stimulate" the economy back to health will spend more than $785 billion on education, infrastructure, and the environment, among other projects. The programs will lead to the creation of three-million jobs, President Obama has promised. A tiny fraction of the money will also pay directly for jobs for disadvantaged teens and young people. One such program in suburban New Jersey is giving some youths between 16 and 24 their first taste of the work world.

Salvatore Mastroeni (l) is the director of the One-Stop Career Center in Hackensack, New Jersey

At the **One-Stop Career Center** in Hackensack, New Jersey, counselors are trying to put 400 youths to work this summer. "If you don't like the sun, the heat, you can do some office work," a counselor tells a new prospect, 16-year-old Nahdir Gonzalez.

To qualify, the youths must be economically disadvantaged, and also face at least one other barrier to getting a job, such as being a drop-out, or having been in trouble with the law. Gonzalez left school last year. Like everyone in the program, he'll earn the minimum wage of $7.25 an hour for working 20 hours a week through August.

"I want a job because I don't want to get in any trouble," Gonzalez said. "I want to stay away from the streets, keep my head on my shoulders, stay on the right path, so I can be successful in life."

Salvatore Mastroeni, a former high school principal, is the director of the publicly-funded One Stop career center, which offers training and job counseling to workers of all ages.

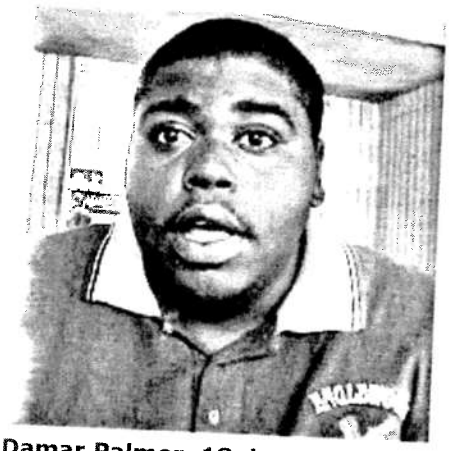
"There's going to be next steps for you after you leave this program," he told Gonzalez. "Hopefully, in September or October we might be able to begin either a GED program for you, connecting you then with a college, [and] with a transition program for career pathways."

Mastroeni often makes the drive from Hackensack to nearby Englewood, New Jersey, where he's placed young workers at the recreation department and other local government units.

"Mayor's office, schools, any public entity where youngsters can gain workforce readiness skills," Mastroeni explained. "And in our program, we will be teaching them

workforce readiness skills: a lot of information on resume writing, preparing for applications, preparing for an interview."

Eighteen-year-old Damar Palmer is one of the 320 youths hired so far. He works caring for grounds and buildings at the recreation center in Mackay Park.



Damar Palmer, 18, is working at the Mackay Park Recreation Center this summer

"I enjoy it," Palmer said. "These are things I like to do, I like to work with my hands. If it weren't for this job, I wouldn't be working. I wouldn't be giving back to the community. So, I'm thankful for this job."

20-year-old Desirae Somerville is working in the office of a near-by school, and also helping out at the recreation center.

"They have me down at Liberty School, working with other children," she said. "We're fixing up the classrooms, painting, and doing inventory." Asked what she would be doing this summer if she hadn't gotten a stimulus job, Somerville said, "I'd probably be home now sleeping -- or looking for another job."

But the purpose of the program is not only to help low-income youth to join the work world, Mastroeni notes. It's also to kick up economic activity through the young workers' spending.

"To help parents, to help them buy their sneakers or to buy clothing, to move the economy in some way, shape or form ahead," Mastroeni said. "And we hope that this will help ignite the economy and get us moving in the right direction."

Desirae Somerville says she is saving her stimulus job paycheck for a Florida vacation

Most of the young workers say they'll spend their pay as fast as they earn it. Jonathan Nunnally, who lives with his girlfriend and baby son at his parents' house, said, "I'm using the money basically for paying for my little room that I rent at my mom's house, and paying for my son."

Desirae Somerville said she's saving for a Florida vacation, and Damar Palmer wants to buy video games and clothes. Nahdir Gonzalez said he knows where his first paycheck will go.

"I'm going to the mall and I'm going to go shopping. And I'm going to reward myself with some clothes," he said.

On a larger scale, U.S. lawmakers hope that other Americans who find jobs created through the stimulus program will do the same, and that their spending will jumpstart the national economy.

But for youth who face challenges to finding work even in a strong economy, Mastroeni

says, the confidence and skills they gain in these subsidized jobs could prove more valuable in the long-run than their paychecks.

Las Vegas Sun

Teens, Boulder City reap benefits of federal stimulus funds

Justin M. Bowen

Mason Groves, foreground, trims the grass at the Boulder City Library amphitheater as one of the several teens working on city landscaping crews this summer through Workforce Investment Boards teen summer job program.

By *Jean Reid Norman* (contact)

Monday, Aug. 17, 2009 | 1:59 a.m.

The fresh, new faces around City Hall, on landscaping and public works crews and at recreation centers, are more than just some summer help Boulder City didn't have in its budget.

They are work-training-in-progress.

They are extra hands to tackle long-neglected projects.

They are federal stimulus money that came home to roost in Boulder City.

Boulder City won a federal grant of $148,000 through the Workforce Investment Board to hire up to 50 high school students for the summer. In addition to $8 or $8.50 an hour, depending on the job, the students received one day a week of training on job skills, CPR and goal-setting.

The seven-week program has had the Boulder City High School students working in various city departments four days a week, then spending a day in the City Council chambers in class.

"The feedback I've received has been overwhelmingly positive," said Acting City Clerk Lorene Krumm, who coordinated the program. "They have been a big help, eager to learn. They're great kids."

The students, many who were working their first summer job, said they have enjoyed heading to work every morning more than they expected, and not just because of the money.

"I thought I would be bored and not enjoy myself," said Evynn McFalls, a June graduate who plans to study journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, in the fall. He has been working for Krumm in the City Clerk's office.

"I've learned a lot about how the city is run. I never leave here and say, 'That was a day wasted.'"

Krumm has him tackling a backlog of old documents that need to be scanned and archived so they are available on the city's Web site.

Especially given the city's recent budget cuts, the students have been a big help, Krumm said.

"These kids have been able to help bridge that gap," she said. "We've received the benefit."

Public Information Officer Rose Ann Rabiola Miele has had Branden DeLangis, a June graduate, and Shane Zellow, a senior, putting together short video pieces to show on BCTV. Their first week on the job, she gave them raw footage of the May Parks and Recreation Tiny Tots graduation, which they edited into a short feature on the event.

They also have been shooting footage that will go into future BCTV productions and are helping Miele clean 20 years of clutter out of the BCTV studio.

It was the third choice of job for both of them, but they both said they were glad it's where they ended up.

"We've learned about workplace relationships, how to get along in a job," DeLangis said.

And, Zellow added, how to manage their time better.

Mason Groves, a senior, has been learning how to get up before dawn in his position on a landscaping crew. He rises at 4 a.m. to be at work by 5:30, he said.

"Getting up early in the morning is a good skill," he said.

He talks proudly about the trees he's trimmed and grass he's mowed. "Last week, the wind took down some branches. We got right on the job, cut them up and cleaned it up," he said. "It's looking nice again."

Boulder City High counselor Rebecca Balistere, who has been teaching most of the Friday job skill classes, said that is what builds self-esteem. She has been building on that with instruction on goal-setting and by serving as a place where the students can ask questions about office politics or work etiquette.

"There's a difference between goals and dreams," she said. She has taught the students how to set attainable goals that prove to themselves that they are capable.

She also goes over the basics of work etiquette, but Balistere said Boulder City teens don't need much instruction.

"Boulder City kids are just good kids," she said. "They come with skills not all kids have -- respect, the ability to listen. They are an unusual group of kids."

The Buffalo News

Mayor's 'Green Team' recruits youths to promote recycling

BY JAKE MAY
NEWS STAFF REPORTER
July 07, 2009, 6:50 AM /

Mayor Byron W. Brown announced Monday the formation of a summer youth program aimed at promoting the city's new recycling outreach project. He calls it the "Green Team."

"Increasing our rate of recycling is an important way to reduce our carbon footprint," Brown said at a news conference in Niagara Square. "Our implementation of the Green Team will serve as an effective way to educate all residents, both young and old, on the importance of recycling."

The Brown administration set a goal on Earth Day, April 22, to increase the city's recycling rate, currently at 6 percent citywide. The mayor's goal, he said, is to raise the rate 3 percent by April 22, 2010.

That is still a dismal rate compared with New York State's average of 12 percent, said Green Team Coordinator Dennis Mitchell, a 22-year-old senior at Buffalo State College.

Mitchell said the Green Team, which consists of 100 student volunteers, will split up into five districts and educate Buffalo-area residents about recycling plans, asking them to participate.

The Green Team also plans to frequent high-traffic facilities, such as supermarkets and libraries, to clean the city.

"Even the slightest increase in our citywide recycling efforts can dramatically improve our local ecosystem and quality of life through saved tax dollars and new jobs," Brown said. "Often we say the youth is our future . . . we also hear it said that they are always off making poor decisions. Not today. These students are engaging themselves into this project. This is how we can move forward."

Constance Howard, 22, of Buffalo, said people need to recycle. If the city is going to make the effort, everybody needs to pitch in and do their part.

She said she follows her father's motto of paying it forward, doing something for others and expecting them to do the same.

"You are a resident in this city, and it is your responsibility to take care of it," she said. "Nobody else is going to recycle for us. We need to do this and we need to do this now."

jmay@buffnews.com

MPNnow.com
Teens explore 'green-collar' jobs at Finger Lakes Community College

Carrie Ann Grippo

Eddie Howe (on right) of Canandaigua and Paul Inglesby (yes INGLESBY) (on left) of Bristol use a Radio Telemetry device to try and track a "bear" (in this case, just an empty collar). On 8/13/09 at FLCC Muller Field Station in Honeoye where business owners and Cornell University reps gave 120 teens in an FLCC summer program a look at careers in the sustainability industry.

By Jason Adams

Daily Messenger

Posted Aug 16, 2009 @ 06:43 AM

Honeoye, N.Y. —

Representatives from two businesses and Cornell University gave young adults a first-hand look at careers related to alternative energy and conservation Thursday afternoon at Finger Lakes Community College's Muller Field Station.

Green Careers Day drew roughly 30 teens from a four-county region, all looking to explore and educate themselves on emerging green-collar jobs and the training and qualifications required for them.

"This is one of the culminating events of the summer youth program," said Kathy Guy, director of FLCC's Bridge Program, which provides short-term assistance to people in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties who need help training for and finding employment. The youth portion of the program served 340

youth in the four counties this summer.

"We want to offer them variety to get their minds going and help them see careers that might interest them," Guy said. "It's about making them aware of what's available and to get them thinking in different ways — different than my generation thought."

Located at the south end of Honeoye Lake, Muller Field Station provides field-based education for academic programs, laboratory experiences, community outreach and the opportunity to participate in or observe local research projects. Steve Cleason from APD Engineering & Architecture on Fishers Run in Victor, Steven Isaacs from Cornell Research Farms in Geneva and Daniel O'Connell from the General Motors fuel cell research and development facility in Honeoye Falls took part in the event put on by the Bridge Program.

The program is funded by a grant from the State University of New York. The economic stimulus meant an increase in the amount of youth who could be assisted this summer, Guy said.

To start off the day, the teens participated in games that served as icebreakers and aided in the development of the Bridge Program's goals for the day.

"The games are meant to sharpen leadership and communication skills and help them create friends and network, to show them the character needed when working," said Guy.

Following the icebreakers, the teens split up into three groups — acorns, leaves and pinecones — with each listening to a presentation by one of the representatives on hand. The groups were kept small in order to heighten interaction with the presenters.

GM's O'Connell informed the teens of the opportunities for green engineering in the automobile industry.

"From an engineering perspective, its a great time to be in the automobile industry," he said. "The time now is great for change. We have a lot of technology. We are on a razor's edge in terms of oil, so we have to learn to get away from petroleum and work to diversify energy. There are a lot of great careers out there to help do so."

To demonstrate what green engineering can accomplish, O'Connell showcased a zero-emission Chevy Equinox fuel cell car that runs off hydrogen. The car emits only water vapor, and it generates enough exportable power to support 20 houses.

Cleason from APD Engineering & Architecture, a civil engineering company that works to instill sustainability in

commercial retail settings, tried to get the teens to realize the concept's importance.

"Now is the time to think out of the box and to take the right steps to fix things," he said. "When I was young, everything got in a harmful flow and the responsibility to change our habits rested on someone else. Capitalist society is supported by human nature and our desire to compete. We have to apply sustainability to the competition."

Cleason finished by speaking about the green opportunities in engineering and architecture, and the many spin-off careers that can arise in the field.

Isaacs of Cornell Research Farms brought in some products to demonstrate the innovations that thinking outside the box can accomplish. Passing around a natural health drink made from tart cherries, Isaacs explained how new technology applied to an old crop can create a beneficial and productive food product. He also passed around a piece of carpet made out of dried cow manure, used to help clean up oil in the event of a spill.

"It's about using green products with beneficial traits to help clean up the environment," he said.

Along with the carpet made of manure, Isaacs also told of a mushroom being used that will eat and break down the oil.

"Things are happening," he said. "Things on a microscopic level that you can't see but are making a huge difference. We have to think about new ways. That's why exploring the emerging green-collar jobs are important, because that's where the future will be."

The teens in attendance said it was exciting taking a peek into the future.

"It's quite interesting, all this stuff, especially the fuel cell car," said Stacy McFall, 19, of Rushville in Yates County. "I enjoyed it. Overall it was a helpful day, exploring the opportunities out there and educating myself."

Ithacajournal.com

Federal Stimulus Money Funds Local Summer Youth Employment Programs

KATHLEEN HOOVER • READER SUBMITTED • AUGUST 5, 2009

We've heard about stimulus money being used for things such as infrastructure investments, Medicaid expenditures, and tax cuts. But in Tompkins County, those funds - as well as additional state funds - are also going to fund work experience opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth. The program, called Jumpstart Jobs, places 330 Tompkins County youth in jobs with local businesses and non-profits with the aim of providing work experience for them, as well as summer income.

One group of teens is working to build an overlook shelter at Buttermilk Falls State Park. Another group is working with the Ithaca Downtown Alliance doing community service and marketing. Many other young people are in individual placements at businesses such as nursing homes, hair salons, libraries, car dealerships, bed and breakfasts, farms, and numerous retail outlets.

This summer employment program focuses specifically on youth ages 14-24 years old who are economically disadvantaged or face barriers to academic achievement or job readiness, and might otherwise spend their summer months idle.

One participant, Nick Roscoe, 21 of Ithaca said, "If I didn't have this opportunity, I'd probably keep working in fast food." Instead, he is working for Cornell Cooperative Extension learning about home weatherization and performing home energy audits "I'd like to keep doing this as a career if I could. If I didn't have this job, I'd probably be working in fast food."

In fact, the Jumpstart Jobs program places particular emphasis on the emerging green collar industry. Every week, some program participants attend green collar job trainings in which they learn about jobs available in this field and the skills and education necessary to attain them. These trainings have included visits to local "green" businesses including Tompkins County Recycling, Renovus Energy, Significant Elements, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services and Comet Skateboards.

Of Comet Skateboards a locally owned and operated skateboard company that uses non-formaldehyde glues, renewable biocomposites and water-based inks in their manufacturing process another program participant Erica Eldredge, 16 of Trumansburg said: "This is my dream job, I really hope I can intern there in the fall."

The Jumpstart Jobs program is made possible by a coalition of the Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training, the Ithaca Youth Bureau, and Tompkins County Action, with funding made available through the Tompkins

County Workforce Investment Board. It is also part of a larger effort statewide to hire over 23,413 teens and young adults in federally-subsidized summer jobs using stimulus dollars.

Teens Find Summer Work Through Youth Programs and Family

by Mary Frost (mfrost@brooklyneagle.net), published online 07-07-2009

It's a Tough Year for Kids

By Mary Frost
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BROOKLYN — It's a tough year to find a job if you're a teen — the local shrinking economy has lessened the number of seasonal jobs and internships for young people across the city.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, while New York City's adjusted unemployment rate increased to 9 percent in May; the unemployment rate among 16- to 19-year-olds is up to 22 percent.

Teens have been pounding the sidewalk and hitting up relatives and have applied to the city's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in record numbers. SYEP participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs at government agencies, hospitals, summer camps, small businesses and stores.

One of the organizations providing summer work through SYEP is Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, headquartered at the Dr. White Community Center at 200 Gold St.

The center has provided summer work to more than 600 youth participants this year, said Daniel Ng, program director at Catholic Charities. Mr. Ng said that the young people are working in "day care canters, a radio station, two clothing stores, restaurants (for those 20 and up), some 'artsy' stores like a printing store, and at the Green Apple Corp., where they do park restoration."

The students earn $7.25 an hour and also receive training in financial literacy and job skills. (The deadline for applying has passed, however.)

More than $18 million in stimulus money has been applied to youth employment programs this year, funding more than 13,000 jobs for the city's teens.

"We got additional funds," Ng said, "but it's still not going to be enough. We're provided a certain amount of slots … People are still looking for jobs."

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WKTV - Utica, NY

Picente: Oneida County youth begin 2009 Summer Employment Program with Work Readiness Day Tools

Story Created: Jul 6, 2009 at 3:47 PM EDT
Story Updated: Jul 6, 2009 at 4:01 PM EDT

UTICA, N.Y. - With more than 500 youth in attendance for Oneida County Work Readiness Day 2009, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., today kicked off the Oneida County Summer Youth Employment Program. Picente noted that this year's program is larger than past years due to funding through the federal stimulus package that is helping Oneida County youth learn work skills

- Watch The Video : http://www.wktv.com/news/local/50047582.html?video=YHI&t=a

"This summer opens the door for you to learn what work is all about, to learn some lessons about what employers will want, to learn what types of skills you will need to achieve success, and to use this summer as a first step on the ladder of success," Picente told the youth. "Months of planning have taken place to create meaningful, rewarding opportunities that will help you learn some critical work skills, help our community agencies, and contribute to the community. Today, the door of opportunity swings open for you."

Joining Picente were: Congressman Michael Arcuri; Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito; Assemblyman David Townsend; Oneida County Sheriff's Office Sgt. James Paravati; MVCC President Randall Van Wagoner; MVCC Executive Director of Organizational Development John Bullis; Oneida County Workforce Development Director David Mathis; Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Alice J. Savino; and New York State Dept. of Labor Regional Administrator Delores Caruso.
"Our youth can develop the skills and gain the experience needed to help our region conquer the challenges of the future," Arcuri said. "The funding we approved in Congress through the Recovery Act to increase Summer Youth Employment will help Oneida County's youth develop and grow into the future of our local workforce. Valuable life lessons are always learned through summer jobs and I look forward to following the development of these committed young people as they grow."

Oneida County Workforce Development Director David Mathis said that Oneida County's Summer Youth Employment Program served about 480 youth in 2008. Due to Recovery Act funding, once all programs are up and running, about 700 youth under18 will be served in 2009, an increase of about 45% "Oneida County's Summer Youth Employment Program represents the first job for many of the youth we serve," said Mathis. "Without the funding that our region is receiving from the federal stimulus package, along with the funding Gov. Paterson and the Legislature approved for our youth, these young people would be left behind. This is a great team effort on behalf of our youth, and I want to thank all of our partners."

Work Readiness Day Exhibits
Work Readiness Day featured exhibits and presentations from a wide range of partners, including: MVCC: MVCC showcases career opportunities in numerous growth fields, including its unique airframe and powerplant mechanic school at Griffiss Park, renewable energy, health care, and welding. MVCC also provided tours of its campus and facilities and leading sessions detailing skills necessary for success in college and the workplace. "College is an essential step on the road to a

career, and we are delighted that MVCC could be such a major partner in this event and in our Summer Youth Employment Program," Picente said.

New York State Department of Labor: The Department presented an introduction to CareerZone, an innovative online career exploration and planning system designed especially for today's high-tech youth. CareerZone presents current and relevant occupational and labor market Information on 800 occupations. Links to college exploration and planning resources help youth begin their life/work journey.

Renewable Energy: Morrisville State College. In collaboration with MVCC, Morrisville offered students an interactive presentation that helped them increase their awareness of the regional Renewable Energy Training Center and the region's opportunities in high-growth "green" careers.
Mohawk Valley EDGE: Mohawk Valley EDGE presented students with information about career opportunities and growing economic sectors in the region.

Also presenting information were: Oneida County STOP-DWI; Utica MHA; Insight House; Mohawk Valley Council on Alcoholism and Addiction; and YWCA of the Mohawk Valley.

Background: Impact of Youth Employment

The need for the Summer Youth Employment Program was highlighted by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, which reported that:
*In 2008, less than 1 in every 3 teen-agers had a job -- a new 60 year historical low.
*Teen summer employment has dropped by more than one-third since 1989.
*Teen summer employment has dropped by 30% since 2000.
*Between 1979 and 2008, the summer employment rate of male teens declined by nearly 40%,
*By the summer of 2008, only 1 of 5 Black teens and only slightly more than 1 of 4 Hispanic teens were working
*From 2000 to 2008, employment for teens with family incomes under $20,000 went down 35%; for youths from families with incomes under $60,000, employment went down 29%

In the spring of 2009, it added these facts:
*In the first quarter of 2009, under 30% of the nation's teens were employed, lowest rate in post-World War II history
*Only 32 of every 100 young adult high school dropouts worked full-time in the fall of this year versus 52 of every 100 high school graduates and 77 of every 100 four year college graduates
The Center also noted that Youth Employment pays community dividends beyond the wages youth earn, noting that:
*More intensive employment during teen years and early 20s increase likelihood of receiving apprenticeship training and formal training from employers in your early to mid 20s; these training investments raise wages and earnings
*Local areas characterized by higher employment rates for teenaged girls have lower teen pregnancy rates
*Local labor markets with higher employment rates and wages for boys reduces their involvement with criminal justice system, particularly for assault/battery and property crimes, reduces attraction of drug sales among inner city youth

2009 Program Listing

The 2009 Oneida County Summer Youth Employment Program includes these programs:

*Preserving Our Past and Securing Our Future / Rome Historical Society: The Rome Historical society in partnership with other highly regarded not-for-profit and businesses in Rome provides a summer work and learning opportunity.
*Career Options Program / Utica School District & MVCC: To gain work experience, students will be employed in various positions in the Utica City School District. The project is designed to enhance the basic educational skills of youth and enhance citizenship skills.
*Construction Trades / Oneida County School and Business Alliance (SABA): Students will learn basic carpentry and construction skills;
*Health Occupations / Oneida County School and Business Alliance (SABA): Students will participate in an on-the-job training/ work component at Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare.
*Civil Engineering / Oneida County School and Business Alliance (SABA): Students will learn basic civil engineering skills pre-employment and other work-related skills.
*The Oneida County Summer Youth Employment Program also places youth at a variety of worksites designed to help youth gain valuable work experience. The list of 2009 worksites includes: Boonville / Oneida County Fair; Camden Central Schools; Johnson Park Center; Neighborhood Center; Rome YMCA; Salvation Army; Thea Bowman House; Utica Youth Bureau; VVS Central School; Waterville Central School; Westmoreland Central School, and Young Scholars Program.

Posted: 27 Jul 2009 05:20 AM PDT

Canton Repository

Stimulus sparks hope for young men in summer job program

CantonRep.com / Michael S. Balash

Andre Oliver, Marcus Williams, C.J. Jackson (seated) and Quentin Pride are working this summer at A.D. Culler's barbershop in Canton, courtesy of the federal stimulus package, which has $1.2 billion earmarked for summer jobs for young adults. Williams, Jackson and Pride plan to become professional barbers.

More related photos

By Charita Goshay

CantonRep.com staff writer

Posted Jul 24, 2009 @ 11:11 PM

CANTON —

The neighborhood barbershop is more than a business; it's a hub, a community gathering place.

A.D. Culler's barbershop at 901 Market Ave. S is no exception. Amid the buzz of clippers and music, the shop is humming with young men seeking haircuts and conversation. This summer, Culler's shop also is serving as a training ground and source of summer employment for four young men, three of whom are interested in the

profession.

The jobs were made possible through a grant awarded to Community Services of Stark County's youth and young adult services. Program manager Michele Boone said the agency received $450,000 in federal stimulus money; $370,000 of that goes directly into wages for summer jobs.

"We have a contract with the Workforce Initiative Association," she said. "The money flows through them."

Boone said the stimulus enabled Community Services to hire 68 young adults up to age 24, in addition to the 45 high school juniors and seniors already enrolled in the program.

Nationally, $1.2 billion in stimulus money was earmarked by the Obama administration for summer jobs for 125,000 disadvantaged teens and young adults. The pay averages $7 to $8 an hour.

Lilly Davenport, a youth job training specialist who works with Boone, said the barbershop training was a result of feedback from those taking part in the program.

Community Services also is working in partnership with Lisa Seeden, young adult coordinator at the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Quentin Pride, 24, is one of the lucky ones. Pride began studying barbering while serving time in prison on a felonious assault charge. He was released early for good behavior.

"I heard about the program through A.D.," he said. "I'd still be job searching."

The job, Pride said, enables him to save tuition money for barber school, which will enable him to finish training. He has completed 801 of the 1,800 hours required for a license.

Because unlicensed people cannot cut hair professionally, Pride and his three coworkers take care of the maintenance and the business end of Culler's shop, and study cutting techniques.

RECESSION-PROOF

"Before, I didn't have a goal, or a reason to be positive," said Pride, who hopes to work for Culler and eventually open his own barbershop.

C.J. Jackson, 19, said he also has aspirations to be an entrepreneur by opening his own shop or a car wash. Jackson said the full-time job is helping him to provide for his child.

"It keeps us off the streets," he said. "It keeps us busy. There aren't a lot of jobs out there."

Like plumbing and undertaking, barbering is one of those virtually recession-proof jobs that can't be outsourced.

"This program was a good thing for me," Jackson said. "We have good role models in A.D. and Lilly. They're helping me to keep my head on straight."

In addition to his shop duties, film student Andre Oliver is using the opportunity to produce hair-cutting instructional videos for Culler.

"I'm a college student living alone," Oliver said, "so this job helps me out financially."

Oliver, 22, said he will graduate from Stark State College of Technology in 2010 with a degree in video production.

"I'd probably be working at some job I hate," he said. "But I actually get paid to do a job I like to do."

BEST USE?

Aspiring barber Marcus Williams, 24, was getting a haircut at Culler's the day Davenport came in to discuss the program with Culler.

"I don't know where I'd be. Still in the streets hustling," he said. "It's a chance to earn money and watch the professionals. I know I made the right decision. I'm working towards my goal."

Culler said the four men have been a big help.

"I needed people to work the desk," he said. "I wish there would have been someone around to mentor me. I grew up cutting hair in the basement of an SMHA complex.

"As the seventh of eight kids, I didn't have money for barber school; I worked off my tuition. It's kind of my duty to give back. I'm doing all I can to help pave the way.

"It's been a blessing ... I need them as much as they need me."

Culler, who opened his shop in 2007, said he applies the same methods he uses as a youth football coach to teach trainees. He does not receive any money for the training.

"I'll help them achieve their goals if they're serious," he said. "I love working with kids. You're a mentor, whether you want to be or not."

Not everyone is convinced that summer employment is the best use of federal stimulus money, but Davenport sees the positive impact.

"I think the money has been very beneficial," Davenport said. "When you look at the people involved, there is benefit. They could be doing something else. They haven't missed a day of work. They like being with A.D.; he's been educating them on things other than barbering. In the case of Quentin, he has a vision, now."

Ashland Times-Gazette

Stimulated to work Federal funds put youth on the job maintaining Mohican trails

August 14, 2009

Photo By Times-Gazette photo/Jim Brewer
Youth workers Cliff Richmond, Frank Mack, Andrew Marshall and Kyle Reynolds, all from Ashland, level a pile of gravel over a wet spot on the Lyons Falls trail in Mohican State Park. They are working with park personnel and volunteers from the Mohican Trails Group on trail maintenance through a youth jobs program funded by federal stimulus dollars.

By JIM BREWER

T-G Staff Writer

LOUDONVILLE -- Volunteers from the Mohican Trails Club, an organization that works continuously to build, improve and maintain the network of hiking trails in Mohican State Park and Mohican-Memorial State Park, is receiving a boost this summer.

The boost comes from a contribution of muscle and energy, funded through the federal economic stimulus programs.

Eleven youths, mostly from the Ashland area, are working at Mohican as a summer job. They work through the Workforce Investment Act in a special Transitions program funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, explained Jeffrey Styer, who serves as director of the program through his position with the Tri-County Educational Service Center.

The work is pretty basic.

"They are working on maintaining our hiking trails," Louis Andres, manager of Mohican State Park, said as he walked to the work site on the heavily traveled Lyons Falls trail along the Clear Fork. "Today we are improving drainage along the trail and filling in wet spots with gravel."

The work is ponderous. In the rugged wilds of Mohican, you don't pull your pickup truck along the trail and dump gravel into depressions. But rather you roll a heavy wheelbarrow up the trail, including over pesky roots and rocks protruding through the trail bed.

"It's hard work," said Andrew Marshall, 18, of Ashland, as he raked a recently dumped pile of gravel over a depression. He and companions Cliff Richmond and Kyle Reynolds, both also 18, and Frank Mack, 16, joined Jim South of the Mohican Trails Club on the project.

Manned by volunteers, the Trails Club can get bogged down during the summer months when the trails at Mohican are used heavily.

"They give us some fresh muscle," South said. "They help us keep up with things.

Youth hired through the ARRA program are working on projects through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in a program called Recovery Conservation Corps. Projects include improving recreation lands, building boardwalks, building observation areas and curbing the spread of invasive species, according to Beth Ruth, public information officer for ODNR.

At Mohican, in addition to trail maintenance, RCC workers will rebuild foot bridges, remove downed trees, paint maintenance buildings, trim tree branches along roadways, weed the test plot of American chestnut trees, clean and paint equipment trailers and clean, sharpen and oil garden and fire tools, according to Andres.

"We have two crews working, one with state park personnel and one with state forest crews," Andres said. "They have worked over 1,000 hours so far this summer, and are accomplishing projects that otherwise would not have been completed this year. We are getting work done, and the participants are learning about work ethic, new skills, job safety and environmental awareness."

The state will use $20.7 million in Workforce Investment Act Funds from ARRA for this program. ODNR and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services are partnering to make optimal use of the ARRA funds, said Sean Logan, ODNR director.

"These projects fulfill the spirit of the rapid economic response needed now by the people of Ohio and called for in the stimulus plan," Logan said. "The program puts young people to work, and does it quickly.

"Through the program, these workers will gain critical experience and on-the-job training while they improve the state parks, wetlands, forests and other natural areas," said Logan.

The RCC is reminiscent of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps created in the 1930s. That organization did conservation work on public lands, and employment and job training during the Great Depression, Ruth said.

Much of the work of the CCC still is evident at Mohican, including trails, picnic pavilions, roadways and parking areas.

Other work sites for WIA youth employment programs in Ashland County include the College House Bed and Breakfast, Ashland County Health Department, Ashland County Dog Shelter, Loudonville-Perrysville Schools, Ashland bus garage, Kroc Center, Goodwill, Camp Nuhop and the Carpenter's Shop.

Youth in the program are hired by the Tri-County ESC and covered under Tri-County's Worker's Compensation plan.

Styer said youth may do work at the Ashland County Fairgrounds later this summer to prepare for the fair and during fair week, Sept. 20-26.

Ruth said similar youth worker programs for natural areas are running in Indiana, New York, Tennessee and California.

13 ABC.COM

STIMULUS MONEY FUNDED SOME TOLEDO SUMMER YOUTH JOBS – 7/10/09

Thousands more applied than could be accommodated

They're working for local companies while the government pays their wages. A summer stimulus jobs program employs hundreds of young people in temporary positions. About a thousand are working through the program.

The marketing team at Sylvania Township's Combustion Controls includes Aleisha May, a University of Toledo sophomore, and Carnisha Everage, a student at Notre Dame Academy.

The two students have little marketing experience. Now they're helping to sell complex

Combustion Control's Paula Dusseau told us she "saw it on the news and thought this might be a great way to help the company grow and help young people in Toledo." >{? Uncle Sam pays Carnisha and Aliesha's $7.50-an-hour wages. Aliesha told us she had been looking everywhere for a summer job. So her application joined a stack at The Source of nearly 3,000 hoping for a summer job.

But for every one person that filled out an application and got a job and is now filling a seat at a local business, there is at least one person that did not get a job.

We're told for the most part jobs were filled on a first-come, first-served basis. It's a tough lesson for the thousands not chosen and invaluable experience for those that were.

Video: http://abclocal.go.com/wtvg/story?section=news/local&id=6909328

PortlandTribune

Two chances for teen jobs – slim and none

State among toughest in nation for teenagers to find summer work

BY PETER KORN

The Portland Tribune, Jul 2, 2009

L.E. BASKOW / TRIBUNE PHOTO

Cleveland High School graduate Thomas Albanese (right) tells Tyler Rogoway, owner of Nick's Coney Island on Southeast Hawthorne, about where he's searched for work. He so far has been unable to find a summer job that will help him pay for college.

Thomas Albanese graduated from Cleveland High School this year planning to take a year off from school before starting college in 2010. Part of that plan was getting a job this summer so he could earn money for college. Albanese is looking to pursue a career as a singer at a music conservatory — not a cheap ticket.

"That's the main reason I didn't go (to college) this year," says the 18-year-old Albanese. "I don't have near enough money."

Albanese started his summer job search by filling out online applications a few weeks before school let out. He has biked up and down Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard, Northeast Broadway and Northwest 23rd Avenue, asking for applications at stores that appealed to him. He figures he's hit up at least 15 stores so far, with no success.

Most store managers, he says, told him they weren't hiring at all this summer. Only one asked him back for a formal interview. Albanese says his friends have met with a similar lack of success — with the exception of one, who found work at a Wendy's.

What Albanese and friends are experiencing is not unusual. Not this summer. A confluence of factors, the deepening recession only one among them, has made Oregon among the worst states in the country for teenage employment. And that, according to experts, could invite a whole host of problems in years to come.

"The labor market for kids has collapsed in the last nine months," says Andrew Sum, the director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. "Oregon's kids have really gotten whacked beyond belief."

The recession means most businesses have fewer summer jobs available, Sum says. And data is showing that those seasonal jobs that remain are increasingly being taken by out-of-work adults.

Every summer, the Oregon Zoo hires about 150 summer employees, most part-time, to work in the zoo cafeteria, in security or in grounds maintenance. And every summer the zoo gets more applicants than the year before. In 2006, 1,678 people, most of them teens, applied for the jobs. Last year, 4,462 applied. This year, more than 7,000 have applied for the no-benefits, minimum-wage jobs.

But the growing number of people applying for summer zoo jobs isn't what most startled zoo officials, who figured the Portland area's high unemployment rate would have some effect. What zoo officials weren't prepared for was having adult applicants outnumber kids this year by a ratio of 9-to-1.

As a result, most of the zoo's summer jobs this year, some offering only about 10 hours of work a week, went to adults.

Laurie Baggio, owner of 1-800-GOT-JUNK?, a local franchise hauler, says that in previous summers, he has hired as many as eight college students to haul junk for 15 to 20 hours a week. College students, he's found, are ambitious, flexible about when they work and willing to do just about anything — including drumming up business by waving street corner signs.

In previous summers, Baggio says, he received about 10 job applications a month. This year, he has received two to three times as many applications, and most came from adults who had lost work and were trying to cobble together multiple part-time jobs. Baggio has about half as many summer jobs to hand out this year, and he likely will hire only one college student.

PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP PHOTO: VERN UYETAKE • *Erika Halloran, a senior at Lake Oswego's Lakeridge High School, says she feels lucky to have found work at a local Burgerville after a month of rejections.*

Companies that hire youths must obtain a certificate from the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. The number of companies obtaining the certificates has held fairly steady in recent years, according to Christine Hammond, administrator of the bureau's Wage and Hour Division. But this year, Hammond says, the bureau has issued 13 percent fewer certificates than in the past. That tells her that fewer businesses are even considering hiring teens.

Immigrants, seniors filling traditional youth jobs

If there's a traditional summer job for teens in Oregon, it's berry picking. But Brooke Jackson-Winegardner, an economist with the Oregon Employment Department, says farmers are telling her that adult migrant workers have mostly taken those jobs. Jackson-Winegardner says that overall, Oregon and Portland teen employment has dropped about 25 percent since its peak in 1989.

Sum's research backs up what the farmers are saying. Beyond the recession and Oregon's second highest in the nation unemployment rate, Oregon teens suffer because of the state's high number of recently arrived foreign immigrants.

Adult immigrants have begun to replace teens in many traditional summer jobs, Sum says, including landscaping, unskilled construction and at fast food restaurants. And those are jobs that traditionally were held in the summer by teenage boys. Many of the jobs that teen girls have gravitated to over the years — child care, nurse's aid, camp counselor, clerical work— have not been eliminated at the same rate as the traditional jobs for boys.

Sum's research shows that in states with low rates of immigrant populations, mostly in the Midwest, teens are still working at relatively high rates. But teenagers seeking summer jobs are being hammered by more than just newly arrived immigrants. Seniors also are putting the squeeze on them. States with large populations of senior citizens also correlate with lower teen employment, according to Sum. And Oregon's senior population is significantly higher than the national average.

Nationally, seniors have taken between 800,000 and 900,000 jobs that used to employ teens, most in retail malls and fast food restaurants, according to Sum. Until recently, he points out, grocery store baggers and clerks were almost always teenagers. Now, un-retired seniors are just as common in those jobs.

The minimum wage is also a factor, Sum says. His charts correlate a rising minimum wage with lower teen employment. Oregon's minimum wage — which, unlike some states, is tied to the consumer price index — rose 45 cents last year to $8.40 an hour.

"The evidence is pretty overwhelming that kids get beat up a lot from raising the minimum wage that fast and that high," Sum says.

Teen unemployment can have dire effects

The statistics get even worse, Sum says, when you look at Oregon teens who are classified as "underutilized."

According to Sum, 38 percent of all Oregon teens who want work are either unemployed, have given up looking for jobs or are working at part-time jobs even though they'd like full-time employment. That rate is among the worst in the nation, Sum says.

It's also dangerous, Sum says, because teens who have stopped looking for work are an especially bad predictor for the future. "You find it harder to get back into the labor market when you withdraw," he says.

Some preliminary research indicates that higher rates of unemployed youths, especially in cities, can lead to an increase in property crime. One Massachusetts Institute of Technology study correlated higher teen pregnancy rates with girls living in areas where there were fewer teen job opportunities.

Summer jobs represent more than a few months of work, Sum says. Typically, they lead to winter jobs. And overall teen employment correlates with employment later on.

"The more we work when we're 16 or 17, the more we'll work in our late teens and mid-20s. We'll work more and earn more because of the work experiences we gathered," Sum says.

All of which is good reason for Erika Halloran to be feeling lucky. The 16-year-old senior from Lake Oswego's Lakeridge High School found a job two weeks ago at a local Burgerville. During the course of a month, she'd applied to a dozen different grocery stores, retail shops and fast food outlets. "Anything that was close to my house," she says. "I couldn't really afford to be picky."

Halloran actually thought she had another job secured for the summer serving meals to children at a Portland Police Activities League sponsored camp. But money for that job came from federal stimulus funds targeted for disadvantaged teens.

Most of her friends, Halloran says, have not been so lucky and are still looking for summer jobs, or giving up. The minimum wage Burgerville job — 10 hours one week, 20 hours the next — is far from the full-time job she had once envisioned getting. But getting it has taught her a lesson. Halloran says she's going to keep working at Burgerville right through the school year so she has the job secured for next summer.

STIMULUS DOLLARS USED TO HIRE TEENS WHO FACE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

Employment experts have the data to prove this is the worst summer ever for Portland teenagers who want to work – but that's not true for all teens. Federal stimulus dollars may ease the pain for certain categories of young people.

The recently arrived stimulus money is subsidizing Portland-area government agencies and private employers to hire teens this summer in numbers not seen in decades. But because federal money comes with requirements that it be applied only to teens who face what are considered barriers to employment, the teens who may be at the greatest disadvantage this summer are those from middle-class and wealthier families.

Maura White, who runs the Police Activity League of Greater Portland, says the federal money has allowed her agency to hire an extra 35 young people this summer. But she's had to turn away middle-class kids.

Multnomah and Washington counties received $3.2 million of federal stimulus money this summer, and that money is being used to provide minimum wages to approximately 1,100 young

people in the two counties. Virtually every county governmental department and many city bureaus are hiring the teens. A number of nonprofits and private companies are also participating by providing work experience while the federal government provides the pay.

The federal requirements give precedence to teens from low-income families and teens with other employment barriers – pregnant young women, teenagers in foster care, teens who have a gang history and teens for whom English is a second language, for example.

"These kids are most at risk of dropping out," says Rebecca Stavenjord, Academic and Life Success Coordinator for Multnomah County's Commission on Children, Families and Community, which is helping arrange the jobs financed by the federal money. "It is keeping them out of trouble, and it is helping them build new skills."

Some of the youths are working with weatherization teams, others are working with county social workers, and others are getting paid internships at the Multnomah County Library. Those jobs, Stavenjord says, serve a double value by introducing disadvantaged teens to occupations they might want to consider as career choices.

Record numbers of those middle-class kids who can't find summer jobs may be finding an alternative in unpaid volunteer jobs, according to nonprofit executives. White says she is working with dozens of teenagers from private Jesuit High School who are putting in as many as 120 hours of work this summer helping out in Activity League camps and receiving only school credit.

But Molly McFatrich, youth and family coordinator with nonprofit Hands On Greater Portland, says that many nonprofits are also feeling the effects of the recession and are having to scale back their staff, and thus their capacity to manage teen volunteers.

The distribution of federal money makes sense, according to Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. Sum says studies that have followed teens as they become adults show that teenagers from low-income families who work are more likely to stay in high school and continue to college.

"For those kids, working helps them learn good time management, and they understand the importance of schooling for work," Sum says.

In a sense, Sum says, the stimulus money may be leveling the playing field. That's because the majority of middle-class teens who work, Sum says, get their jobs through family contacts. Many low-income teens don't have that advantage.

"If Mom and Dad don't work, you don't have that social networking," he says.

– Peter Korn

PORTLAND NEWS

Doughnuts and job skills for Portland youth, in a bright pink truck

by John Foyston, The Oregonian
Wednesday July 08, 2009, 8:50 PM

Motoya Nakamura/The OregonianThe hard-to-miss Urban Opportunities van is patrolling Portland this summer with a can't-miss load: philanthropy, as in helping local youths; entrepreneurship, as in starting an innovative nonprofit-business alliance; and doughnuts, as in Voodoo.

Polly Bangs was having a tough time turning her bouncing pink baby loose.

"Troy, be sure and call me if you guys need anything," she said as she unplugged the power cord for the refrigerator and coffee maker that was tethering the bright pink Urban Opportunities doughnut van to the Voodoo Doughnut Too parking lot.

Driver Troy Lowder, an Urban Opportunities project leader, and his crew -- Cecilia Lopez, 17, and Janelle Kilbourne, 20 -- had just loaded 10 dozen of Voodoo Doughnut's finest and freshest into a tall aluminum rack and were headed for downtown Portland on the van's first official day of business last month.

"Are you good on gas? And wear your seat belts! Cecilia, are you belted in?"

Bangs comes by her protective-mom role honestly. She developed and directs Urban Opportunities, a job-readiness training program that helps about 100 kids a year from five Portland-area high schools. Urban Opportunities -- which recently received a three-year, $251,000 grant from the voter-created Children's Investment Fund -- helps kids at risk of dropping out to learn job skills and find jobs.

Before that, Bangs owned Pasta Bangs restaurant on North Mississippi Avenue, which had a job training program for homeless youth and employed almost 50 kids during the three years she owned it. She sold the restaurant in 2007 to start Urban Opportunities, which has since become part of the 20-year-old nonprofit Oregon Outreach Inc.

Motoya Nakamura/The OregonianPolly Bangs (right) started Urban Opportunities in 2007 to, in a nutshell, get kids working and earning. In her latest venture, Cecilia Lopez, 17 (left), Janelle Kilbourne, 20, and others are gaining valuable job experience while making minimum wage.

The new doughnut van is yet another way to get kids working and earning, Bangs says. "There aren't many jobs out there right now," she said.

Bangs came up with the idea for the van in April, just about the time a woman called and asked how she could help Urban Opportunities. Bangs and the prospective donor met for coffee, and the woman liked the idea of the van so much that she told Bangs she would raise the money to buy it -- which she did in three weeks. In fact, she raised $11,000, Bangs said, and the well-used former Northwest Natural Gas Co. van bought through Craigslist cost a third of that.

Donated materials and labor helped refurbish the van, which was outfitted with counters, paneling, wiring, storage space and vending windows on each side by Rob Roy of Recychedelic, a Portland metal fabricator. Then it went to Diamond Truck Painting, where it received a coat of hot pink paint -- apparently not a color that was in stock, Bangs said -- for the bargain price of $900.

Tres Shannon and Kenneth "Cat Daddy" Pogson, owners of Voodoo Doughnut, are enthusiastic about the van, as are the young people selling doughnuts from it.

"This is my first job," Cecilia Lopez said. "I was looking for a while, but it's really hard finding something in this economy, especially with no work experience -- this will give me the experience I need."

Lopez is a graduate of the Urban Opportunities program at Jefferson High School; her co-worker, Kilbourne, was referred from New Avenues for Youth, a Portland nonprofit. They are two of the eight youths who now have jobs -- at $8.75 per hour -- on the van. Each will work two to three days a week for the next six months, after which a new group will sign on.

Three of the crew are political refugees from Nepal living in Portland with their parents, who are unemployed. "They're attending summer school at Benson (High School), and they're the breadwinners for their families," Bangs said. "There are language and culture differences that would've made it very hard for them to find jobs, if not for this opportunity."

The van and its crew are not only selling around town but also are available for rental for parties, shop openings and other events. They'll also appear at events such as Last Thursdays on Alberta Street and Sunday Parkways, when streets are closed to vehicular traffic. The next Sunday Parkway is July 19 in Northeast Portland.

"It's a great idea," said Voodoo Doughnut's Shannon. "We've been wanting to do something like this forever, but we've got about four gazillion other things to do. But the ice-cream-truck model is a good one, and we're glad to get the product out to more parts of Portland."

"Besides, this is a great way to give back to the community," said Pogson, who started the shop with Shannon in Old Town in 2003 and last year added a second shop in a former drive-in on Northeast Sandy Boulevard.

Voodoo Doughnut sells doughnuts to Urban Opportunities for less than wholesale; the van crew sells the pastries at prices ranging from $1.25 for an old-fashioned doughnut to $3 for a bacon maple bar. There are vegan doughnuts available, too.

They sell about 20 dozen a day and can sell as many as 60 dozen at street fairs and other events.

"This is such a known brand that it sells itself," Bangs said. "On a test run, we stopped for gas and some girls came up and wanted to buy doughnuts, and then the gas station attendant bought one, too."

Motoya Nakamura/The OregonianOn their first day in the Urban Opportunities doughnut van, Janelle Kilbourne (right) and Cecilia Lopez load their inventory of 10 dozen doughnuts. Van crew members have sold as many as 60 dozen doughnuts a day at street fairs and other events.

Sales pay for the youths and drivers -- the latter are Urban Opportunities employees -- and all extra money goes back to Urban Opportunities/Oregon Outreach Inc., which owns the van.

Crews will take the van out for two shifts a day, seven days a week, Bangs said, and she hopes that this van is just the first of several.

"I want a fleet," she said.

Visions of pink fleets may have been dancing in her head on the van's first day, but Bangs was very much in the moment as Lowder led Lopez and Kilbourne through the details of cleaning, stocking, inventorying and setting up the till.

"I'm so nervous," Bangs said. "They're just like my kids, and it's hard not to be in the van with them -- it's like the first day of school."

"Remember," she called to the crew as the truck rolled away, "you guys can always grab a rag and wipe things down if you're ever not busy. ... "

-- John Foyston; johnfoyston@news.oregonian.com

kgw.com NewsChannel8 Portland

At-risk kids get lesson in gardening for the needy

07:32 PM PDT on Wednesday, July 22, 2009

By KATHERINE COOK, kgw.com

PORTLAND, Ore. -- The Oregon Food Bank has a new vegetable garden to grow food for the needy, thanks to a group of at-risk teens in Multnomah County.

The group of seven from the Youth Employment Institute, planted the garden outside the Multnomah County Juvenile Detention Complex. The teens will tend the garden throughout the summer, while earning a small wage.

Sixteen-year-old Joe Doss said an added benefit of working in the garden is it will help keep him off the street and out of harm's way. He recalled a recent shooting in his neighborhood.

File

A healthy garden.

"The person was in the streets at the wrong place at the wrong time so I'm glad I'm doing this," said Doss. "It keeps me out of trouble, keeps me focused and it's a great learning experience."

On Wednesday, the teens planted tomatoes, peppers and lettuce, while cultivating confidence.

"I think you can do anything if you just put your mind to it," said Shawen'tanae Mosley. The 19-year-old is new to gardening, but isn't letting that stop her from planting a bumper crop for the needy.

"We want to change the community, we want them to know... that we do care," she said.

Multnomah County Commissioner Jeff Cogen helped organize the garden, which he said is more about growing food.

"It's about helping kids who are at risk, and one of the things that they need to know is that they're valued," Cogen said.

If Doss' assessment of the group's work is any indication, the teens already know the value of their work.

"We did a great job," he said. "It felt like professionals did this job!"

For Mosley, the greatest reward will come when the fruits of her labor are ready to harvest.

"When we pass by we can say, 'Mom, we did that!" She said.

In addition to the Oregon Food bank, some of the garden's produce will be used to feed those at the Juvenile Justice Complex. The garden is paid for by federal stimulus dollars.

Posted: 27 Jul 2009 05:04 AM PDT

OregonLive.com

Learning life skills one post hole at a time

by Mark Larabee, The Oregonian
Thursday July 23, 2009, 4:01 AM

Faith Cathcart/The OregonianSamantha Coffey, 18, (left) uses a sledgehammer on a fence-building project around the frog pond at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge.

Lexy Stevens wipes the sweat from her brow, blows a strand of long brown hair from her face and once again slams a heavy steel bar into a hole in the ground to loosen the dirt.

At 5 1/2 feet, the bar is 4 inches longer than the Gresham girl is tall.

The 16-year-old is undeterred. She and several other teens in light blue T-shirts are putting up a split-rail fence to keep people out of a wildlife area in Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, one of Portland's most important natural areas.

They are part of Portland's Youth Conservation Corps, which is paying minimum wage this summer to 64 teenagers to remove ivy and other invasive species, maintain trails, restore natural areas and put mulch around newly planted trees in city parks and natural areas.

Some of the corps members are from well-to-do families, looking for meaningful summer work. Some came through a youth violence-prevention program. And others, like Stevens, are enrolled in Southeast Works, a nonprofit that helps high school dropouts from across the metro area get a diploma.

Administered by the Portland Bureau of Parks & Recreation, the Youth Conservation Corps is one of a number of summer youth jobs programs under way in the region getting a share of federal stimulus dollars. In this case, about 20 percent of the funding is federal stimulus. The rest is city money. Overall, about $3.3 million in stimulus money is going for summer jobs for 1,170 low-income workers ages 16 to 24 in Multnomah and Washington counties.

All those jobs — in city and county government and in private businesses — will keep young people working for an average of six weeks. Each will earn an average of $1,500, said Amy Parkhurst, a nonprofit agency worker who administers U.S. Department of Labor employment and training programs in the two counties.

"Ten years ago, funding for large-scale jobs programs went away," Parkhurst said. "Simultaneously, the unemployment rate for people this age has skyrocketed."

Faith Cathcart/The OregonianSharon Blaine, 16, uses a post hole digger to make a hole for a fence she is helping to build at the parking lot to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge.

The stimulus money targets teens at risk of dropping out of high school.

"We know that kids who work in the summer are more likely to go back to school and to complete school," Parkhurst said. "If they were disengaged and just hanging out, it's more likely that they wouldn't be going back to school."

Lexy Stevens and many others in the Portland Youth Conservation Corps are living proof of that troubling fact. They have already dropped out but are taking steps to rectify that mistake. They spend every other day in the classroom working toward their GED, a high-school equivalency. For that, they earn the same $8.40 an hour they do when they are building fences or watering plants. Southeast Works pays their salaries.

Astrid Dragoy, a city employee who oversees the Youth Conservation Corps, said it isn't just about the diploma or the summer spending money.

"We're not just creating jobs here, we're teaching life skills," she said. "We're investing in their future.

"It's like preventive medicine. It's cool to volunteer. It's cool to work hard. It's not just geeks who do that."

Louise Shorr, a Parks Bureau supervisor in Southeast Portland, said most of the teenagers she oversees in the conservation corps have had a bumpy road in their short lives.

"The kids didn't have the role models that a lot of us had growing up," Shorr said. "These are kids who've been left at home alone since childhood. They've been mentally abandoned."

Shorr said the program is teaching them about having positive attitudes, appropriate attire, proper boundaries and respect for others. And sometimes the lessons are tough. Two teens have been kicked out for bad behavior. One walked off the job, and another repeatedly used inappropriate language in a first-aid class.

"They have to learn what's acceptable in the classroom and in the workplace," Shorr said. "These are responsibility skills."

Faith Cathcart/The OregonianA second-year crew leader with the city's Youth Conservation Corps, Merle Roberts (second from left) helps Lexy Stevens, 16, (left) Dylan Wiley, 17, and Josh Hendrix, 16, (right) pack up the van to move to the next work site.

Sometimes, that's a challenge, Shorr said, yet most of them are truly motivated. All the participants came to the program on their own. Stevens said she applied after hearing about it from some of her friends.

"I'm learning how to be a hard worker," she said. "It's going to help me succeed at my job."
Sharon Blaine, 16, wants to be a wildlife biologist. Her forays into Oaks Bottom taught her about invasive species such as bullfrogs, which spread disease and eat natural amphibians.

Blaine dropped out of Franklin High School during 10th grade and said she joined the Southeast Works program after hearing about it from friends. She likes the mix of working and school and is now aiming for college.

"They teach us how to get a job, careers and how to interview," she said. "I think this will help me get into college. I'll be prepared."

Merle Roberts, the crew leader, said the experience offers teenagers a balance between real life and learning. For many, it's their first job, and he has to often remind them to put away cell phones and to keep at it.

"I spend a lot of my time trying to find a balance working on the soft skills — the work ethic and respect — and the hard skills — how to use a shovel," he said.

Faith Cathcart/The OregonianA second-year crew leader with the city's Youth Conservation Corps, Merle Roberts (second from left) helps Lexy Stevens, 16, (left) Dylan Wiley, 17, and Josh Hendrix, 16, (right) pack up the van to move to the next work site.

Roberts occasionally will hold a one-on-one session if someone is struggling with a personal problem, but, for the most part, those are treated as side issues, much as they would be in a regular work setting.

All told, the program will cost the city $263,000 — 20 percent in federal stimulus money and the rest from the Parks and Environmental Services bureaus, cobbled together during a tight budget year.

But the taxpayer investment isn't just in the preservation of the landscape, it's in the future of the participants, said City Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees the Parks Bureau. The program offers meaningful summer employment while teaching teens who have struggled to cope in a traditional school setting how to be hard workers and good citizens, he said.

"That's a hell of a deal," Fish said. "My dream is that these kids, down the road, apply for jobs with Portland Parks and that we get to hire some of them."

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Stevens, determined and brick removed, slams the steel bar into the earth again with a soft grunt. "I'm almost done," she says.

--Mark Larabee: marklarabee@news.oregonian.com

1,200 teens sign up for summer jobs plan

Portland Mayor Sam Adams is spearheading the city's first summer jobs program.

"We have hustled the last five months to put together a program I'm really proud of," Adams said.

The mayor's initiative has several moving parts: an education program aimed at eighth-graders moving up to high school; a job program for disadvantaged young people; and internships with the city.

In the eighth-grade program, teens will go on tours of workplaces and colleges. The idea, said Jane Ames, the mayor's education policy aide, is to give them an experience they can use to imagine a better future.

Many students approaching ninth grade feel unprepared for the transition from middle school to high school. The Portland Multnomah Youth Corps Career and College Exploration program has an overall goal of increasing the graduation rate, Ames said.

"We want to expose them to career opportunities, whole career pathways, and see what it's really like," she said.

The summer youth jobs program, funded with federal stimulus money, is managed by WorkSystems Inc., a nonprofit work force development organization. The young people must meet low-income guidelines and have one of several barriers to employment, such as being in foster care, having low skills or having trouble with the law.

Participants are hired through one of 12 providers such as Southeast Works and Portland Youth Builders. They can work up to 180 hours between May 1 and Sept. 30 and will earn $8.40 an hour, the Oregon minimum wage.

About 1,200 young people have signed up to work at about 600 work sites, including Standard Insurance, Portland Community College and Miller Paints. The program is at capacity.

Ames said the city also is hiring 25 young people as interns to work in the Parks Bureau and other city departments in a pilot program.

The program "helps kids catch up on their credits, help them pay for summer school, and then gives them six weeks of work for the city," she said.

--*James Mayer*: jimmayer@news.oregonian.com

Hillsboro Argus Blog – Hillsboro teens benefit from federal stimulus

http://blog.oregonlive.com/hillsboroargus/2009/07/hillsboro_teens_benefit_from_f.html

Business Journal, July 31, 2009

Stimulus cash helps put young Oregonians to work

In his own words, Rudy Rolon-Rivas was "young and stupid."

He was expelled from North Portland's Roosevelt High School in 2002 after a graffiti spree.

Now, seven years later, the 21-year-old Rolon-Rivas could parlay an internship with a North Portland screen printing shop into a full-time position.

Rolon-Rivas's three-month internship at A Better T Shirt Co. is funded through the Youth Summer Works program, created by Worksystems Inc. The Portland-based nonprofit received $3.3 million in federal stimulus money to create summer jobs for 1,170 workers between the ages of 16 and 24. The jobs will provide about $1,500 per worker through September.

Youth Summer Works participants will work up to 180 hours during the program and earn $8.40 per hour, Oregon's minimum wage.

"It's been great so far," Rolon-Rivas said. "I've done a little bit of everything here, and, if the economy picks up, they want to keep me as a permanent employee."

The program helps in three key ways. It provides jobs to workers between 16 and 19, 38 percent of whom are unemployed in Oregon. The rate is the nation's second-highest.

The initiative will also infuse cash into the economy: As young workers earn their salaries, they'll likely spend money at area retailers. In some cases, their paychecks will buy their families' groceries or pay utilities.

The program could teach young employees, especially those in high school, about work ethic and professionalism. Teens who work in high school tend to acquire skills that increase their employability, and earnings potential, in their young adult years, according to researchers from Boston-based Northeastern University.

"It teaches kids basic workplace skills, such as the importance of showing up on time and how to communicate appropriately," said Andrew McGough, WorkSystems' executive director.

Rolon-Rivas has uncovered other benefits. A Better T Shirt's owners are paying $350 to certify him as a screen printer, which could help him land work for years to come.

The program's funds come from the $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed last February. The money flows from WorkSystems to such nonprofits as the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, which supplied Rolon-Rivas' services to A Better T Shirt.

The center provides education, family outreach and employment training and placement to at-risk youths.

The Summer Works program has supplied paid interns to companies such as Providence Health Systems, Stancorp Financial Group, PCC Structurals, Legacy Emanuel and Oregon Health & Science University.

The Standard employs three Summer Works employees — in the company's publications center, imaging center and forms department.

"It helped us offset some costs: Otherwise, their work might have been handled by temporary staffing," said Bob Speltz, a Standard spokesman. "It was a great business decision for us, and we hope their paid work experience in a professional setting will open doors for them down the road."

Another program participant, Randy Salazar, landed a summer position as an information technology specialist with Portland-based Quango design and marketing company.

"It's really helped a lot of youths learn about what it takes to work in the private sector," said Barbara Timber, a WorkSystems project manager.

More than 110 of those youths come from the Opportunities Industrialization Center. More than 200 applicants had applied.

"That's an indication of the young people out there who are willing to work, but, unfortunately, also of our bad economy," said CEO Joe McFerrin II. WorkSystems, with operating revenue between $15 million and $20 million, also received $3.5 million in stimulus money to help displaced workers. All told, the program has received just under $9 million total from the stimulus package.

For A Better T Shirt, the program couldn't have arrived at a better time. Rolon-Rivas has fortified a staff that Laura Seitlinger, the company's operations manager, recently downsized to two half-time workers.

Luckily for Seitlinger, whose company provides small runs of specialty shirts, Rolon-Rivas is practically a pro.

"He's doing great, he's hands-down the best intern we've had," she said. "This is a very good fit for him and for us. He's a natural for this business."

agiegerich@bizjournals.com | 503-219-3419

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In this photo taken July 7, 2009, a second year crew leader with the city's Youth Conservation Corps, Merle Roberts, center left, helps Lexy Stevens, 16, left, Dylan Wiley, 17, center right, and Josh Hendrix, 17, pack up the van to move to the next work site in Portland, Ore. (AP Photo/The Oregonian, Faith Cathcart)AP

By Mark Larabee
The Oregonian
August 03, 2009

PORTLAND — Lexy Stevens wipes the sweat from her brow, blows a strand of long brown hair from her face and once again slams a heavy steel bar into a hole in the ground to loosen the dirt.

At 5 1/2; feet, the bar is 4 inches longer than the Gresham girl is tall.

The 16-year-old is undeterred. She and several other teens in light blue T-shirts are putting up a split-rail fence to keep people out of a wildlife area in Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, one of Portland's most important natural areas.

They are part of Portland's Youth Conservation Corps, which is paying minimum wage this summer to 64 teenagers to remove ivy and other invasive species, maintain trails, restore natural

areas and put mulch around newly planted trees in city parks and natural areas.

Some of the corps members are from well-to-do families, looking for meaningful summer work. Some came through a youth violence-prevention program. And others, like Stevens, are enrolled in Southeast Works, a nonprofit that helps high school dropouts from across the metro area get a diploma.

Administered by the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Youth Conservation Corps is one of a number of summer youth jobs programs under way in the region getting a share of federal stimulus dollars. In this case, about 20 percent of the funding is federal stimulus. The rest is city money.

Overall, about $3.3 million in stimulus money is going for summer jobs for 1,170 low-income workers ages 16 to 24 in Multnomah and Washington counties.

All those jobs — in city and county government and in private businesses — will keep young people working for an average of six weeks. Each will earn an average of $1,500, said Amy Parkhurst, a nonprofit agency worker who administers U.S. Department of Labor employment and training programs in the two counties.

"Ten years ago, funding for large-scale jobs programs went away," Parkhurst said. "Simultaneously, the unemployment rate for people this age has skyrocketed."

The stimulus money targets teens at risk of dropping out of high school.

"We know that kids who work in the summer are more likely to go back to school and to complete school," Parkhurst said. "If they were disengaged and just hanging out, it's more likely that they wouldn't be going back to school."

Lexy Stevens and many others in the Portland Youth Conservation Corps are living proof of that troubling fact. They have already dropped out but are taking steps to rectify that mistake.

They spend every other day in the classroom working toward their GED, a high-school equivalency. For that, they earn the same $8.40 an hour they do when they are building fences or watering plants. Southeast Works pays their salaries.

Astrid Dragoy, a city employee who oversees the Youth Conservation Corps, said it isn't just about the diploma or the summer spending money.

"We're not just creating jobs here, we're teaching life skills," she said. "We're investing in their future.

Louise Shorr, a Parks Bureau supervisor in Southeast Portland, said most of the teenagers she oversees in the conservation corps have had a bumpy road in their short lives.

"The kids didn't have the role models that a lot of us had growing up," Shorr said. "These are kids who've been left at home alone since childhood. They've been mentally abandoned."

Shorr said the program is teaching them about having positive attitudes, appropriate attire, proper boundaries and respect for others. And sometimes the lessons are tough. Two teens have been kicked out for bad behavior. One walked off the job, and another repeatedly used inappropriate language in a first aid class.

"They have to learn what's acceptable in the classroom and in the workplace," Shorr said. "These are responsibility skills."

Sometimes, that's a challenge, Shorr said, yet most of them are truly motivated. All the participants came to the program on

their own. Stevens said she applied after hearing about it from some of her friends.

"I'm learning how to be a hard worker," she said. "It's going to help me succeed at my job."

Sharon Blaine, 16, wants to be a wildlife biologist. Her forays into Oaks Bottom taught her about invasive species such as bullfrogs, which spread disease and eat native amphibians.

Blaine dropped out of Franklin High School during 10th grade and said she joined the Southeast Works program after hearing about it from friends. She likes the mix of working and school and is now aiming for college.

"They teach us how to get a job, careers and how to interview," she said. "I think this will help me get into college. I'll be prepared."

Merle Roberts, the crew leader, said the experience offers teenagers a balance between real life and learning. For many, it's their first job, and he has to often remind them to put away cell phones and to keep at it.

Roberts occasionally will hold a one-on-one session if someone is struggling with a personal problem, but, for the most part, those are treated as side issues, much as they would be in a regular work setting.

All told, the program will cost the city $263,000 — 20 percent in federal stimulus money and the rest from the Parks and Environmental Services bureaus, cobbled together during a tight budget year.

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teens who have struggled to cope in a traditional school setting how to be hard workers and good citizens, he said.

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Stevens, determined and brick removed, slams the steel bar into the earth again with a soft grunt.

"I'm almost done," she says.

The MOUNTAIN Times

Youth Corps Puts Stimulus Funds to Work posted on **08/03/2009**

In case you missed it, there were stimulus funds on display on the Mountain in mid-July.

Members of Youth Employment Support Services tromped along the side channels of the Salmon River in Arrah Wanna to ensure a protected breeding ground for fish and surrounding habitat.

"They are hard workers who seem to enjoy getting dirty to improve habitat in the Sandy River Basin," said Marci Krass, conservation crew leader for Project YESS. "They are interested in learning more about the native plants and reasons behind the importance of the restoration projects we participate in."

The workers vary in age from 17 to 23. Some are in high school, in GED classes at Mt. Hood Community College, and some have graduated with a GED from high school.

The stimulus funds for the projects are filtered through several agencies, with the majority coming through the Workforce Investment Act and a Portland organization called Worksystems Inc., according to Michael Oliver, conservation crew program director for Project YESS.

The 11-person crew working in Arrah Wanna was one of three crews working around the region. The program funds 170 area youth on paid work experiences for 6 to 12 weeks.
YESS is part of a larger model under the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps which provides employment to 1,200 members this summer. This makes the program one of the largest employers in the state, according to John Asher, director of OYCC, and a showcase program for the nation.

At the Arrah Wanna site, crew members installed heavy weed barrier fabric to kill canary grass in key areas along the side channel. Native vegetation will be planted in these areas during the winter of 2009-10. Cutting grass and covering the bases of the plants with a weed barrier is an effective alternative to spraying with herbicides.

Canary grass is an aggressive, persistent invasive plant that has taken over significant portions of the Arrah Wanna side channel as well as other areas along the Salmon River, according to Russ Plaeger of the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council.

Willows have also been planted and cages erected around the willows to provide shade for the small fish in the stream. The cages prevent deer and beaver from making snacks of the willows.

The side channels on the Salmon River provide essential habitat for threatened and endangered species of salmon. The restoration efforts are an excellent example of what can be accomplished through a partnership between private landowners, agencies and non-profit organizations, such as OYCC and YESS.

The work completed to date has made the side channel suitable as nursery habitat for juvenile coho and spring chinook, spawning habitat for adults and as a refuge from high river flows during winter storms.

Without the stimulus funds this important environmental work would not be done, Krass said, sweeping her arm in an arc. "Just look around. It's working."

by Larry Berteau/MT

At Risk Youth/community Garden by FOX12 News

http://www.kptv.com/video/20149220/

Federal money put three times as many local young people to work

Aug 16, 2009 (Beaver County Times - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- Jeremee Vukich has spent his summer helping the maintenance staff at the Beaver County Women's Center.

"I'm learning a lot," said Vukich, 17, of Beaver, who said the job was going well. Before landing the job, he had previously worked at McDonald's and Burger King, he said. Fast food couldn't compare.

"We're doing a bunch of stuff. We cut the grass around here, build sidewalk with bricks. We make sure everything is updated." Thanks to federal stimulus money, which includes $1.2 billion for youth employment nationwide and $41.1 million in Pennsylvania, officials at Job Training for Beaver County say they were able to create more than 90 minimum-wage jobs for Vukich and other young people this summer.

Deb Newton, executive director, said because of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, curbs were painted in local municipalities or grass mowed at local parks, among other projects, at no cost to those communities.

"These kids are stimulus dollars at work," Newton said.

In fact, stimulus money paid for thousands of part-time jobs across the country, helping teens who were unable to land summer jobs at movie theaters or fast-food restaurants because of a bad economy and a highly competitive job environment. The national unemployment rate was 9.4 percent last month, same as June. But for teens, the rate was 23.8 percent.

"I know it's a difficult job market," Newton said.

In years past, she said about 100 young people typically spent the summer working under Job Training's summer program. That number almost tripled this year, Newton said.

And for Vukich, hard work paid off. The women's center asked that he stay an additional three weeks, so his work length was extended.

The Women's Center has also felt the effects of the recession, facing higher demand for counseling, shelter and other services, but a loss in some federal grant funding affected the center's budget.

"We don't have the extra money in our budget, so it was great for us to get the extra help," said Jill Marsillio-Colonna, director of the Women's Center.

Just about all the young people who completed an application were placed this summer, said Kate Scoff Hendrickson, Job Training's program manager.

More than 250 young workers either went into camps, such as construction or computer training, or to a work site. Computer training is geared for 14- to 15-year-olds, who have a chance to build a computer over the summer that they can then take home.

Working young people range from 16 to 24 years old this year, because of a change in guidelines that allowed Job Training to find work for 21- to 24-year-olds as well.

Special camps focusing on building, manufacturing and transportation trades gave young people experience in carpentry, plumbing and electrical work, graphic design and transportation logistics. Newton said young people also visited employers to see examples of potential jobs.

Regular work sites also exposed young people to "real-life work experiences" at schools, libraries or health-care centers, for example.

"This is a way of preparing them for the real world," Newton said. "These teens will have some work experience that they can cite to a prospective employer." Larissa Theodore can be reached online at ltheodore@timesonline.com.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act aims to save or create 3 million to 4 million jobs.

As part of the economic recovery package, $3.95 billion will be provided to localities for job training and employment services for dislocated workers, youth, and adults.

The package provides $1.2 billion for youth activities, $1.25 billion for dislocated workers, and $500 million for adult activities. The bill also provides $50 million for YouthBuild, $750 million for a new program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging industries, and $200 million for the dislocated workers assistance national reserve.

To see more of Beaver County Times, Pa., or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to http://www.timesonline.com. Copyright (c) 2009, Beaver County Times, Pa.

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Posted: 23 Jul 2009 04:51 AM PDT

PennLive.com - Harrisburg, PA, USA

Summer program gives 205 first-time workers 6-week jobs

by RICK SELTZER, Of The Patriot-News

Tuesday July 21, 2009, 7:32 PM

Over 200 first-time workers in Dauphin and Cumberland counties are getting their paychecks from federal stimulus money -- and not their employers.

Arbor Education and Training, a national organization focusing on work force development, has a six-week summer job program for 205 workers in Dauphin and Cumberland counties that's funded by $524,000 in stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The workers, many of whom are in their first jobs, get something to put in the "experience" box of future job applications and job skills training. Their workplaces, which range from the City of Harrisburg to Hope Station neighborhood organization in Carlisle, get free labor.

"This is it," said Olympia Boles, 21, who works at Cyber Space in Carlisle through the program. "This is the only way I'm going to have that little job experience description. I have sickle cell. It's kind of hard to find a job that's going to cooperate when you're sick."

Arbor's students, who are between ages 16 and 24, work four days a week and receive job training on the fifth day for a total of 30 hours a week. Arbor pays them $7.25 an hour.

"The students go to work and develop a skill," said Sean Hurley, summer youth coordinator for Cumberland County at Arbor Education and Training. "They're helping and just learning how to be good employees."

Lebanon Daily News

Program teaches youth value of hard work

By BRAD RHEN
Updated: 08/15/2009 09:14:10 AM EDT

Carina Tineo has never had a full-time job.

But then, she's just 17 years old.

And thanks to a recently concluded program run by Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 and funded by the economic-stimulus bill signed into law earlier this year by President Barack Obama, Tineo said she is confident about entering the work force.

"I can go to any workplace and know that I'm going to be successful because I have the tools I need to succeed," the Lebanon girl said. "There is no doubt in my mind that I would be successful in anything I pursue."

A total of 47 Lebanon County youths recently completed the six-week program that taught them a variety of skills to prepare them for entering the work force. Known as the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, it involved classroom time as well as on-site jobs.

In the classroom, the students learned things like preparing a resume and techniques for interviewing. Outside the classroom, the students completed hands-on activities at several sites.

And they got paid for it all, earning minimum wage, with the money provided by the stimulus bill.

"This was a wonderful program," Tineo said. "I learned so much."

Tineo and several other participants worked at Sweet Arrow Lake in Schuylkill County. Their mission was to clear weeds and brush from an area and make a picnic grove.

"There was so many trees and so many roots and just so much that needed to be done," she recalled. "We didn't have a format laid out for us to follow, so we just used our imagination and teamwork, and we just kept hacking and pulling out roots. We got the idea to make trails and use the rocks that we dug out from the ground. It's a beautiful, beautiful project."

Dee Cook, a case manager for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, said the program was designed mainly for students who are at risk or who have disabilities. She used the word "barriers" to describe the kind of students to which the program catered.

"For some kids it's a disability. For some it's problems, maybe behavior problems," she said. "We use the word 'barriers' because it applies to each individual in a different way."

Kathy Davies, a youth-project coordinator, said the program was a success.

"We gave these kids an opportunity they would not have had otherwise, and now they can say, 'Yes, I've worked,' because up until this point, they hadn't had a job," she said. "They were anywhere from 16 to 22, and most of them had not worked prior."

On Friday, the students, their families and the IU 13 leaders gathered at the multipurpose room at HACC's Lebanon Campus for an end-of-program celebration.

"We're letting them have a fun day today to celebrate and recognize their accomplishments," Cook said.

Davies said the project will be held again next summer, although it likely will not involve as many students.

Tineo, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., said the main thing she will take away from the program is to stay positive and come to work prepared.

"You can't let the negativity around you distract you," she said. "You have to put your mind on your goal and get it done. As long as everyone tries to be positive, anything can be accomplished."

bradrhen@ldnews.com; 272-5611, ext. 145

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Burrelles Luce Express

Program's finding jobs for youths

By **VALERIE RUSS**
russv@phillynews.com
215-854-5987

Jeanette Lewis is only 16, but she worked as an intern in the legal department at the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust last summer.

She performed so well that she parlayed that summer job into a part-time job after school.

The best payoff could be this: The Mastbaum High junior can now see herself becoming a lawyer some day.

"I really love my job," a smiling Lewis said yesterday.

Grant Williams, 18, spent last summer working in the radiology department at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The senior at Bok Vocational Technical High intends to become a physical therapist.

Yesterday, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce presented Lewis and Williams as examples of what Philadelphia high school students can achieve if given the chance.

Unveiling an initiative called, "Working Solutions: Creating Opportunities for Youth," the chamber challenged city businesses to provide at least 1,000 employer-paid summer jobs this year.

Chamber officials said that joining with its partners in the project will pay off by giving experience and workplace know-how to the next generation.

"Many don't see a promising future," said Joe Frick, chairman of the chamber and president and chief executive of Independence Blue Cross.

The project has agreements with about 225 employers for summer jobs this year through the outreach work of WorkReady, an arm of the Philadelphia Youth Network.

Frick said Independence Blue Cross will provide 50 paid jobs for high schoolers this summer. It provided 22 jobs last summer.

And Roger Bomgardner, senior vice president of Commerce Bank, pledged 25 summer jobs and 10 positions for a mentoring program.

See **JOBS** *Page 32*

The summer jobs are for 11th- and 12th- graders and the mentoring program is for 10th-graders, who get to shadow a professional for a couple of hours a week during the school year.

Mark Schweiker, chamber president and CEO, said the chamber has already discussed with Gov. Rendell and state legislators the idea of providing tax credits for businesses that hire young people from low-income homes.

The legislation hasn't been introduced yet, Schweiker said.

"But we're going to go ahead and do this with or without the tax credit," he added.

The program is a partnership involving the chamber, Philadelphia Youth Network and Commerce Bank, the corporate sponsor. United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the school district are also partners.

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DATE: 02–27–2007
HEADLINE: What business can do

Source Website

Local businesses large or small can support the programs described in this special report – and others like them. Here are eight ways to get involved:

HIRE AN INTERN

The *Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce*, as part of its Working Solutions initiative, has committed to creating 1,000 paid internships for Philadelphia students this summer.

All the logistics – hiring, screening the students, even payroll – will be handled by WorkReady Philadelphia, part of the city's youth–employment agency, the Philadelphia Youth Network. Businesses simply have to fund the positions, which costs about $1,600 per student.

The students will work for four days and have WorkReady training on the fifth. To enroll or learn more, call 215–790–3732 or visit www.greaterphilachamber.com.

DONATE TO AN INTERNSHIP FUND

Don't need an intern, but want to help young people understand the benefits of work? You can donate money to help another local business fund a WorkReady internship position. To learn more, call 215–790–3732 or visit www.greaterphilachamber.com.

BE A MENTOR

Business Mentoring Youth is an unpaid mentoring program that shows 10th graders what work is really like. Students spend two to four hours each week in area businesses, learning valuable lessons about the world of work and interacting with seasoned professionals in a wide variety of companies.

For more information, visit www.philamentor.com.

Or, if you prefer mentoring that isn't strictly work–based, contact Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America. They match young people age 6 to 18 with mentors in professionally supported, one–to–one relationships. Call 215–567–7000 or visit www.bbbsa.org.

SUPPORT WORK– FOCUSED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Congreso de Latinos Unidos runs a series of programs designed to underscore the importance of work to at–risk kids – and to help older workers find meaningful employment, too.

Congreso's "Training for Success" after–school program requires students to complete a service learning project for school credit, college and career counseling, and employment training – and places students in a part–time job or internship.

Congreso also runs one of the three E3Power Centers managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network that help

youth – especially those who have been incarcerated – get back on track.

To volunteer your time or donate to Congreso, call 215–763–8870 or visit www.congreso.net.

To learn about or support other after–school programs – some directly connected to work, others not – visit the After School Activities Partnership at www.phillyasap.org.

MAKE YOUR WORKPLACE ACCESSIBLE TO WILLING WORKERS

If you require online applications, do you have computers nearby to allow workers to fill out online forms while in your office? Are the forms easy for the non–computer literate to complete?

Making simple changes may help applicants – and your business, since you'll be able to accept more applications.

JOIN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

The Philadelphia Unemployment Project runs an innovative van–pool system that connects urban workers with suburban work sites. The workers drive the minivans and pay a small fee for the ride; the project supplies the van, gas and insurance and organizes pools. Employers simply pay $2,000 per year to offset the cost.

For more information, contact the Philadelphia Unemployment Project at 215–557–0822.

ADVOCATE FOR INTERNSHIP TAX BREAKS

The *Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce* plans to back legislation that will help offset the cost of creating employer–paid interships, like those offered by WorkReady, by creating a tax break for participating businesses.

If you'd like to add your voice to that effort, contact Working Solutions at 215–790–3732.

GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL REFORM

A good way to start is by reading Project U–Turn's essential report on dropouts in Philadelphia public school – and the accompanying report, "Turning it around: A collective effort to understand and resolve Philadelphia's dropout crisis." That report offers a set of recommendations for policymakers and for businesses wanting to work on policies to improve city schools. Visit www.projectuturn.net to read it.

Businesses can become even more involved with the school district and perhaps partner on developing academic programs. Contact Michelle Higinio Armstrong, of the Office of Career and Technical Education, at 215–400–5924.

} Posted on Tue, Feb. 27, 2007

Highlights: Greater Philadelphia, Chamber of Commerce

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

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Burrelles Luce Express

Offering 'working solutions'

By **JOSEPH A. FRICK & MARK SCHWEIKER**

As we consider Greater Philadelphia's assets, we can proudly point to natural beauty as well as innovative technology firms, renowned health care institutions and cultural icons. Yet the bottom line is that people are our most valuable resource — a resource that defines us as a region.

This resource may be in jeopardy if we fail to reach out to all segments of the population, especially the young people of Philadelphia. There is a glaring need to connect the city's youth with the vibrant economy that surrounds them yet for many seems beyond their grasp.

We know instinctively and studies have confirmed that without opportunity young people lose hope. They see no future for themselves, their families, their neighborhood and their region.

We want to provide opportunity for young people, so that they become tomorrow's productive citizens and workers. That is why, as part of our Working Solutions initiative, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is encouraging businesses to provide 1,000 paid internships this summer for Philadelphia youth.

Consider the experience of Jeanette Lewis, an 11th-grade student at Mastbaum High School. Jeanette was matched by the Philadelphia Youth Network for a paid internship last summer in the legal department at Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust. This could have been an intimidating experience for 16-year-old: PREIT is a company that owns many major shopping malls around the country; its stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange; its offices are in Center City at the ritzy Bellevue.

Yet Jeanette blossomed through the experience. She says her internship improved her ability to network with people. She realizes that she wants to pursue a career in law. In fact, her bosses at PREIT valued her work last summer so much that they offered her a part-time job after school — which she eagerly accepted.

Jeanette was one of the lucky ones last summer. Area companies provided internships through the Philadelphia Youth Network to 441 young people — and she was deemed qualified for one of those positions. Unfortunately, while 441 young people worked at internships in area businesses last summer, just as many were left on the waiting list. This is why the business community is stepping up.

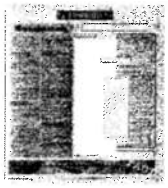
Ideally, we would say that our goal is to make sure that not one young person is left on a waiting list for this summer. Realistically we say, "Let's get 1,000 internships." It's an ambitious but attainable goal. And it demonstrates business will not stand on the sidelines, uninvolved, at this crucial time.

Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, whose foundation is funding innovative educational efforts including the Gateway to College program described in this report, proposes a new definition for the three R's — Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. By relevance, he means making sure young people have courses and projects that clearly relate to their lives and their goals.

What better way to provide relevance to young people than to introduce them to the work world? Give them a job. Let them earn a paycheck. Teach them a skill. Show them a field of work that they may never envision for themselves.

Because we know that workplace experience can produce life-changing benefits, we are encouraging our members and all businesses to provide paid internships for this summer.

We are keeping count in public of our progress in reaching 1,000. We don't mind the spotlight on this initiative. That's how important this undertaking is to the Chamber, our member companies, and our community. ★



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Burrelles Luce Express

RETHINKING OPED

Joseph A. Frick is president & CEO of Independence Blue Cross and chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Mark Schweiker is president & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Frick

Schweiker

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Burrelles Luce Express

THE BEST CRIME-FIGHTER? JOBS

DO YOUR PART: HIRE A YOUNG PERSON

A KEY TO putting violence on lockdown? A job.

This was made clear yesterday in the *Daily News'* ongoing "Rethinking Philadelphia" series: Jobs play a significant role in reducing crime.

And with the city's homicide rate already 22 percent higher than it was at this point last year, we must intensify the urgency to find and act upon solutions such as this.

Teens with jobs develop a work ethic, are off the streets, and more likely to go to college. The more education teens receive, the less likely they will wind up behind bars — or jobless. Ex-cons who find jobs are less likely to become repeat offenders. Dropouts who return to school and find employment increase their chances to a better financial future.

And for young people, impatience is the enemy. They live in a world of must-have-it-now, where fast money earned by little or no work is the new benchmark to success.

Frequently, young people involved in crimes either have no job (fewer than half of Philadelphians 20-24 had jobs in 2005), or no high school diploma. Without either, they have no hope.

And here's proof positive that companies and institutions have a vested interest in joining the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce in their attempts to find a solution to this problem:

Neighborhoods with the fewest number of employed have the highest crime rates.

Through its Working Solutions initiatives, the chamber wants businesses to provide 1,000 paid internships to Philly kids this summer. Other employment projects can be found at http://go.philly.com/rethinkwork.

These are challenging times for anyone looking for work. Steady manufacturing jobs are virtually gone from the city. Lower-paying service jobs abound, but many have relocated to the suburbs.

Instead of hiring, some businesses are laying off workers: Temple University Hospital just announced it was letting 350 people go.

But there are businesses willing to hire the high school student, or an ex-con. We need more to step up to the plate. We support tax incentives for businesses that hire hard to place parolees or people on probation.

More jobs mean less violence, more productive citizens, more money for the local economy.

And safer streets for all. ★

THE DAILY VIEWS

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Burrelles Luce Express

Summer jobs for urban youths

Chamber of Commerce hopes to find 1,000 paid positions, up from 400 last year, and build the future workforce.

By Henry J. Holcomb
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

In an effort to curb violence and strengthen the city's future workforce, business leaders are waging a campaign to more than double the number of paid summer jobs for urban youth.

Joseph A. Frick, chief executive officer of Independence Blue Cross, the big health insurer, has made youth job opportunities a priority of his two-year term as chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Last year, the chamber found summer jobs at local companies for about 400 youths, only about half the number who applied. This year, the goal is 1,000 jobs for youths ages 16 to 21 — and 322 have already been lined up for jobs that start in July.

Joseph A. Frick, the CEO of Independence Blue Cross.

The chamber is making a stronger effort to recruit small companies this year. "It is just as important to have a lot of small businesses who can hire one young person" as it is a big company hiring 50, Frick said.

The chamber is working with existing youth workforce programs.

The nonprofit Philadelphia Youth Network, for example, is providing training for those who get the summer jobs.

The chamber aims to give youths from urban neighborhoods, many of which are torn by violence, work experience and stronger incentives to stay in school and develop skills.

"I've talked to many business leaders about how important their mentors were at a young age and how important it was to have an early workplace experience," Frick said.

See **SUMMER JOBS** on C3

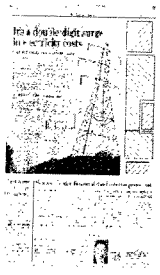
Many of these executives, Frick added, "recognize the importance of breaking down some of the barriers that have developed between business and workforce-development programs."

This initiative also seeks to add diversity to the workforce, which a growing number of business executives say has moved from being just a regulatory- compliance issue to a key part of many corporate strategies. Frick said internships have helped companies like Lockheed Martin Corp. identify strong minority candidates for future employment and assist the young people in continuing their education.

As Frick put it, "the more our companies understand the different demographics of the marketplace, not only will we be better employers ... we will stay grounded in the needs of our future customers, their expectations, and how they interact."

The summer jobs are for at least 120 hours, and the chamber urges employers to pay higher than the minimum wage ($7.15). "We urge employers to pay at least $8 per hour," the program announcement said.

The chamber is also lining up companies to invite high school and college students to accompany employees on work assignments and gain a clearer picture of various jobs.



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Mark S. Schweiker, president of the chamber, said there will be "a big regional payoff when we provide a stronger early connection between area companies and young Philadelphians," which will help keep the brightest young people in the area.

Contact staff writer Henry J. Holcomb at 215-854-2614 or hholcomb@phillynews.com.

philly.com

Learn more about the Workforce Solutions project at **http://go.philly.com/interns** or call the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce at 215-790-3732.

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Burrelles Luce Express

FINISHING THE WORKFORCE JOB

By TRACEE HUNT

The Rethinking Philadelphia special report on connecting young people to jobs (*"Philly has work to do," Feb. 27*) was a terrific public service on behalf of the thousands of talented and energetic young people in this city who seek employment, but who have far too few opportunities to obtain it.

I especially appreciated the focus on programs that are working — activities that link youth with high-quality workplace experiences that can make a fundamental difference in their lives.

While we must attend to the tragedies wreaked by youth violence and the lost potential represented by Philadelphia's unacceptably high dropout rates, these examples give us reason to believe that, with commitment and will, we can prepare our young people to become the active and productive adults we want and need them to be.

In fact, the programs and services described in the special report are more than individual programs managed by well-intentioned and skilled professionals. Collectively, these efforts constitute the elements of an evolving system of youth workforce preparation designed to equip our young people with the knowledge to become a highly skilled workforce for the city, nation and world.

This system, known as WorkReady Philadelphia, already incorporates dozens of youth employment programs funded by millions of dollars in public, private and foundation investments that provide high-quality workplace experiences for almost 10,000 young people each year.

WorkReady was established in 2003 by the Philadelphia Youth Council to coordinate existing youth-employment programs, and to expand the number of workplace opportunities available to the city's young people.

WorkReady programs range from basic workplace preparation for 14- and 15-year-old students and part-time summer and year-round internships for those 16-18 who are trained in workplace behavior and expectations, to more intensive services for youths who've dropped out of school, are involved in foster care or are returning to their communities from delinquent placement.

These programs consist of high-quality academic and work-readiness preparation, and involve a variety of supportive partners working to ensure success for participating youth.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the waiting list for these enriching experiences exceeds 3,000. These are youth who take the initiative and time to apply and wait patiently for enrollment. They are desperately trying to do the right thing — to earn a little money and learn skills that will position them for success. But far too many are turned away because we don't have the resources to fund internships and related opportunities.

And the picture will be grimmer this summer. While the higher state minimum wage will bring needed income for the city's working families, the added costs will mean that, without more resources, at least 1,200 young people won't be able to participate in WorkReady programs.

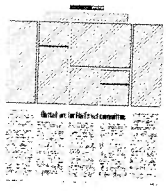
In short, at the very time our city is struggling with youth violence and employers are crying out for talented employees to drive the region's economic growth, we'll be turning away thousands of youths eager to become Philadelphia's homegrown 21st century workforce.

Given this, the commitment from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce to double the number of private sector-funded internships is most welcome. I applaud Joe Frick and Mark Schweiker for their efforts, and thank them for their commitment to our young people.

But we need many more partners from all across the city who are willing to join this crusade. Specifically, we need:

- ➤ The mayor and City Council to consider allocating tax dollars to support work opportunities.
- ➤ Candidates for mayor to clarify their plans for increasing youth-employment opportunities.
- ➤ More employers to open their workplaces to young people eager for their first break.
- ➤ And citizens who will tolerate nothing less than all of our youth having the opportunity to take their places as full members of a world-class workforce.

Working together, we can provide our young people with the experiences they need for successful adulthood — for their sake and for ours. ★



Tracee Hunt is head of the Philadelphia Youth Council.

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ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ/Daily News

Community College job fair: We must prepare our youth for work.

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Student internships sought

Chamber, Youth Network cite benefits to businesses and the participants

By Ayana Jones

Tribune Staff Writer

The *Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce* is encouraging local businesses to provide 1,000 paid summer internships for area high school students.

The initiative is a part of the organization's Working Solutions program that is geared toward providing youths with the tools and experience necessary to become productive citizens and employees.

The organization is well on way to meeting its goal. Chamber President *Mark Schweiker* said employers have committed to providing 323 internship positions thus far. Chamber leadership is hoping that business will step up over the next two months to provide over 600 more positions. The six-week summer internship program will run July through August.

Schweiker says that the leadership core of the chamber believes in business leadership with a heart.

"Part of that is being heartfelt about meaningful ways for young Philadelphians – many of them young African-American men and women – to see the ways of the work world and we're very confident that with the right training and care that businesses will benefit and these young Philadelphians will respond in kind."

The chamber is working in partnership with the Philadelphia Youth Network to help the organization more than double the number of positions from last year's summer internship program. Last summer, 441 area students received internships through the employer-paid internship program administered by the network.

Prior to starting their internships, participating students undergo a one-day training seminar where they learn about workplace expectations. When their internships begin in July, the students will work for about 20 hours at their respective worksites Mondays through Thursdays and attend professional development workshops on Fridays.

Incentives are being put in place for businesses that decide to offer internship positions. For example, Schweiker noted that there is a limited amount of funds available to endow internships at a non-profit. The chamber is also working with the commonwealth to help establish a tax credit for participating companies.

Melissa Orner, vice president of communications and development for the Philadelphia Youth Network, said that last year they were unable to place all of the students who qualified for the summer internship program due to the lack of available positions. Students go through an application and pre-screening process before they are selected to take part in the program.

Orner noted that programs such as the paid summer internship initiative have several benefits.

"There's a lot of research that talks about what the benefits of these kinds of programs are. Kids who participate in these programs are more likely to attend school. They're more likely to pass their subjects. They're more likely to graduate," Orner pointed out.

"For a lot of these programs the benefits are especially relevant for low-income kids and especially African-American males. Ironically, as it turns out, those are the kids that are least likely to get access to these types of working experiences because they just don't have access to those social networks."

Businesses interested in participating can call (215) 790-3732.

The Philadelphia Tribune

520 S. 16th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19146

General Email : info@phila-tribune.com

General Phone: 215-893-4050

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Burrelles Luce Express

Creating Summer Jobs

Give kids a real choice

All Join Hands

An Editorial Board series on violence against children.

An improved police department and more aggressive efforts to get illegal guns off the street are two important tactics to reduce the surge of violent crime in Philadelphia.

But they aren't the only ones — and they may not even be the most effective ones in the long term.

Give kids an attractive alternative to crime and they might just choose it. Make sure the alternative includes a legal paycheck, career training, and possibilities for the future and it will be hard for a young person to resist.

So it's good to see a community drive to arrange summer internships for Philadelphia youth.

The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is expanding summer jobs programs with its ambitious "Working Solutions" campaign.

The chamber is working in partnership with Commerce Bank, the United Way of Southeast Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Youth Network.

The goal of "Working Solutions" is to persuade area companies to offer 1,000 employer-paid internships for kids this summer. So far, businesses have committed to providing 650 jobs.

This program isn't a social service. It's practice for the real world. Kids who seek one of the internships — and there's a long waiting list for them — have to fill out a job application, produce a resumé, show some knowledge of how to act in a workplace, be interviewed by the prospective employer, and receive training.

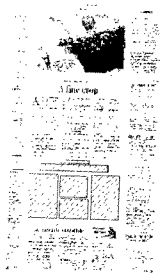
Hey, what do you know, all of that is excellent preparation for getting and keeping a job.

What's as heartening as the jobs themselves is the business community's acting on the reality that its success depends on the city's having an educated, prepared workforce. This is only one of many civic challenges that businesses in the region should aggressively take on.

Summer jobs for kids addresses three of the greatest challenges.

It's a crime-fighting tool. It's an economic development strategy. It's a way to give the city's young people the opportunities they deserve.

Companies interested in offering paid summer internships can contact the chamber at 215-790-3732 or visit http://www.greaterphilachamber.com.



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Burrelles Luce Express

Phila. intern program needs more businesses to pitch in

By Joseph A. Frick and Mark Schweiker

Imagine the smiling, eager faces of first graders, gazing with excitement at their teacher to see what they will learn next. Now imagine those same faces 10 years later. Often just as enthusiastic. Perhaps frustrated by the lack of opportunities available to them.

Unfortunately, this picture represents countless young people in Philadelphia's high schools. We know this because thousands of students contact the WorkReady Philadelphia program every year, inquiring about jobs. These young people want to be independent, earn a decent paycheck, and begin a career with a solid future. But the sad truth for many is that opportunities are limited.

It is time for the business community to respond to that eagerness and help these students realize the exciting futures they want — and deserve. Never before has there been such a glaring need in Philadelphia to connect the city's youths with the vibrant economy that surrounds them.

Joseph A. Frick

Mark Schweiker

We can begin this work by opening the doors of the region's businesses — from the large corporations to the smaller companies. That is why, as part of our Working Solutions initiative, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is encouraging businesses to provide 1,000 paid internships this summer for Philadelphia youths. So far, companies have agreed to provide more than 700.

The six-week internship program, from July through mid-August, costs employers $1,600. It is administered by the Philadelphia Youth Network, which screens and prequalifies interns and arranges for employer interviews before a student is hired.

We're confident that employers will join our efforts and provide 300 more jobs, especially when we tell them about the types of talented and capable interns they will be hiring — interns such as Grant Williams. Williams, a senior at Bok Vocational Technical High School, got a paid internship escorting patients to and from the imaging areas in the radiology department at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

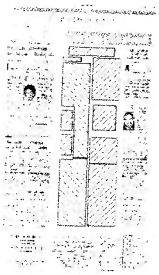
Radiology wasn't Williams' first choice, but he quickly learned how valuable that department is to the hospital. He was surprised by how much he enjoyed working in health care. Now he thinks he might like to become a physical therapist someday.

That is the purpose of an internship — to expose young people to real-life work opportunities and better prepare them to be productive citizens and employees. Like Williams, many students uncover hidden interests and talents. Some even begin lifelong careers through these internships.

The chamber's efforts are an integral part of a citywide strategy known as WorkReady Philadelphia, established in 2003 to coordinate existing youth-employment programs and expand the number of opportunities.

Each year, WorkReady programs, administered by Philadelphia Youth Network, place more than 7,000 youths in a variety of summer and year-round employment programs. However, at least 3,000 young people apply for WorkReady slots each year but are turned away because the supply of jobs can't meet the demand.

That number includes more than



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400 students who were prequalified for employer-paid internships last summer but languished on a waiting list.

Now is the time for our business community to make a difference. We can jump-start the futures of 1,000 lives by opening the doors of the region's leading employers to Philadelphia youths.

Employers gain, too. Not just in the goodwill they do for their community, but in building their own pool of young talent. A human-resources manager for a medium-size firm said: "Once we have these kids as interns, we don't like to let them go. Rather, we hope they will grow into our industry."

We know we have more than enough business leaders in our region who will commit themselves to offering opportunity to young people. As stakeholders in the growth of this region, business leaders are the right people to lead the initiative.

We strongly urge employers to join us in this endeavor, and we hope we can count on you and others in the business community for your support.

Joseph A. Frick is board chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Mark Schweiker is the chamber's president and chief executive officer.

STEVE THOMAS / St. Paul Pioneer Press

Jobs for Youths

Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's Working Solutions
www.greaterphilachamber.org
215-790-3732

WorkReady
www.workreadyphila.com
215-790-3732

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Burrelles Luce Express

Chamber surpasses teen intern goals

By VALERIE RUSS
russv@phillynews.com
215-854-5987

Dante' Woodard thanked the powerful executives from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the persuasive people from Philadelphia Youth Network for his "first ever" job that starts with Commerce Bank on Monday.

But most of all, Dante', who just finished the 11th grade at Franklin Learning Center, wanted to thank his uncle, Eric Woodard, for being a guiding force in his life.

"My whole family has been supportive," the shy 17-year-old said yesterday after talking to a crowd at the chamber's Center City offices, at Broad and Walnut streets.

"But my uncle has always told me to make sure that I have my goals set for the future. My dad wasn't around, but my uncle, he stepped in. He's an entrepreneur, and he always told me about the importance of going to college and furthering my education."

Dante' Woodard's story was one of four young people's stories presented as the chamber announced it has surpassed its goal of finding 1,000 employer-paid summer internships for young people ages 16 and older.

"We're at 1,002 and counting," said Mark Schweiker, president and CEO of the chamber.

But Dante' and the three other Philadelphia public high school students present — Jessica Kesler, 17, of Parkway Center City High School; Eddie Guzman, 17, of Mastbaum; and Melvin White, 18, of the Accelerated Learning Academy — are only part of the story, said Laura Shubilla, president of the Philadelphia Youth Network.

Last Saturday, about 400 high school students, "dressed in full business dress, suits and beautiful dresses," were waiting at the door at Drexel University at 7 a.m., eager to start a full day of training — a day that was unpaid — for their internships, she said.

"Now, that's a story that doesn't get told very often," Shubilla said.

She said the young people took part in an eight-hour day of interactive exercises designed to prepare the students for their summer internships as part of the WorkReady program.

The Philadelphia Youth Network manages WorkReady Philadelphia Youth Council, an arm of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board.

While WorkReady will have jobs, including subsidized or partly subsidized jobs for more than 8,000 young people ages 14 to 21, the Chamber of Commerce devised its WorkingSolutions campaign to convince Philadelphia area employers to provide at least 1,000 employer-paid summer internships for students 16 and older.

Shubilla said that having people like the chamber leadership talking to other business owners was key.

She thanked Schweiker and Joseph Frick, chair of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross.

"This couldn't have happened without their leadership and without their pas-

See INTERNS Next Page

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sion," Shubilla said.

About 136 employers have agreed to provide the 1,002 paid internships, said Stephanie Gambone, director of school support at PYN.

Frick said he was looking forward to next week.

"Monday is a great day," he said. "Our new workers will descend on our workplaces." He said Independence Blue Cross will host 50 teen interns. "They'll be working in human resources, marketing, information technology and operations."

Shubilla said PYN staffers convinced employers to hire students by promising them that they would have support over the summer and that the young people would be trained.

"We had to tell them we weren't just going to dump a bunch of 16-year-olds on them," she said.

There will be support for the summer interns as well. Every Friday, groups of teens will get together to talk about how the workweek went and get advice for any problems or questions they have. ★

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PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Burrelles Luce Express

How to help today's youth: Give them jobs

Philadelphia was built on the ideals of a new nation where financial prosperity was possible for people who worked hard and had the chance to succeed. Yet, for thousands of today's inner-city youth, that chance never comes. Opportunities for a bright future are dimmed by the serious lack of employment, training, and caring mentors. Without decent-paying jobs and the possibility of advancement, young people lose hope — and our city loses the next generation of productive workers and prospective leaders.

GUEST COMMENT

Joseph A. Frick

This summer, thanks to the support of area businesses, and a new effort called Working Solutions from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, more than 1,000 teenagers are paid interns at 135 companies, foundations, and nonprofits. Working Solutions encourages employers to offer internships to city kids through the WorkReady programs managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network.

What difference can a six-week internship make? Plenty, especially when it's your first job, like Dante' Woodard, who is interning at Commerce Bank. Dante' is a 17-year-old student at Franklin Learning Center and his story speaks volumes about positive adult influences. Dante' credits his uncle Eric with guiding his life. Dante' is lucky. Lots of kids aren't as fortunate. Without concerned role models, many teenagers can't see past the challenges of their circumstances, or picture a successful future.

These internships open students' eyes to new ideas and aspirations, and provide a well-rounded working experience. Students do much more than copy, file, or run errands. They gain practical business knowledge, hone interpersonal skills, and feel the satisfaction of a day's work. Every Friday, they meet with other interns to swap work stories, broadening their perspectives. While the assignments last only six weeks, the confidence the interns gain will stick with them their entire lives.

Last year, businesses opened their doors to 440 interns. This year's goal of 1,000 internships was ambitious. It would have been easy for local companies to simply write checks to help disadvantaged youth. Even easier to do nothing. Our leaders proved that being a responsible business means more than offering quality goods and services and making money. Equally important is building a strong community and a dynamic work force.

Today's youth have enormous gifts to offer. They are committed, appreciative, and want our businesses to know they can depend on them — today, tomorrow, and in years to come. They're ready to show us their stuff. And we're ready for them.

Welcome aboard.

JOSEPH A FRICK has served as president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross since January 2005. In October 2006, he began a two-year term as chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Burrelles Luce Express

Intern program is praised by both parties

Young workers say they learned valuable job skills. Their employers expect a positive impact on the region.

By Henry J. Holcomb
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Today is that last day on the job for a thousand urban youth interns at local companies, an experience that gave many their first glimpse of working life.

The greatly expanded youth job initiative — a joint venture of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the nonprofit Philadelphia Youth Network — got high marks from interns and their employers in interviews over the last week.

There was talk among executives that the big push for summer jobs this year, which raised the number of internships from 440 last summer to 1,029 this year, could have a profound and lasting impact on the region.

Thanks to the summer program, said Michael Pearson, president of Union Packaging, of Yeadon, "when these youth enter the workforce for real, they'll have a concept of being on time, that you can't take off when you want."

Pearson said continuing to expand youth employment was critical for the region's future. "There are segments of the metro Philadelphia community where it may have two or three generations since anyone in the family had a real job."

If young people are not drawn out of impoverished backgrounds and into the workforce, they will become a burden on the region, making it less competitive and

See **YOUTH JOBS** on C2

more violent, warned Pearson and other executives interviewed for this article.

The summer jobs are an important first step, said Melissa J. Orner, senior vice president of the youth network. "You can't imagine something you haven't seen. If you can't imagine a job, you cannot want it," she said.

Manij Battle-Whiteman, 16, spent the summer at Comcast Corp., working on the team that processes commissions to stores that sell the company's cable television and other services.

"I've learned to look over my work twice. I am part of a team. If my work isn't absolutely correct, money goes to where it is not supposed to be and my teammates have to work harder," Battle-Whiteman said. He aspires to go to college and become a chemical engineer.

Sanithia Scales, 18, spent "a busy summer" working for KPMG L.L.P., the big accounting and management-consulting firm, scanning client documents into a computer, among other things. Working with others improved her communications skills, which she said would help her study theater in college and become an actress.

She learned, she added, that when she worked hard and helped others, things went better in the department. "At the start of the summer," she said, "I didn't expect that I could make a difference in such a large company, but I have."

Scales is already living on her own, working nights at UPS Inc., a part-time job that provides income for her education and health-care benefits.

The job is only part of the experience for the summer interns. The youth network coached their mentors at work and held weekly classes and exercises on a wide range of workplace issues, including communication, teamwork, and understanding how work gets done.

The interns were assigned to interview the chief executive officers where they worked, and to draw an organizational chart of the company.

"We also played memory games," said Briana Bailey, 18, whose internship at the youth network was funded by a local business. She said this helped her to listen better and remember instructions.

The interns also got advice and answers to their questions from local entrepreneurs and executives during several forums.

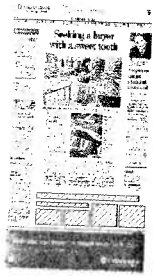
The work the youth network does behind the scenes "is Herculean," said Mark S. Schweiker, president of the chamber.

Joseph A. Frick, chief executive of Independence Blue Cross, is making bringing youth into the workforce the top priority of his two-year term as the chamber's board chairman.

"I've had exposure to so many different leaders who have talked about how important their mentors were at a young age, and how important it was to have workplace experience," Frick said.

Jerry Maginnis, managing partner of the KPMG Philadelphia office, said this summer was his firm's first experience with high school interns. "We were very surprised at how successful it was, how productive the interns were," he said.

The firm also benefits long-term, he said. "There is this



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Burrelles Luce Express

whole Generation X and Y thing going on. Our ability to stay connected helps make us more successful as an organization," Maginnis said.

Pearson, the Union Packaging CEO, talks more bluntly about the urgency of more jobs and mentoring for youth.

"I'm an example of a guy who got a lot of attention and help when I was a poor black kid in West Philadelphia, and I was able to exceed expectations. Fortunately, I had a father who was a presence in my life. Many of these young people are in single-parent homes," Pearson said.

"We've got to give them the soft skills, not just hard skills, or they're going to fail. Even if they start at menial tasks, employers are going to expect them to be on time," he said.

Today's youth need work opportunities and role models, Pearson added, "to be culturally brought out of machismo. I am an African American male. I understand the need to establish manhood. I hope we can establish that manhood is being responsible ... I have guys working for me with three or four child-support payments. They're living with their mother because they can't afford anything else."

Pearson said his summer interns were among his hardest workers, and he hopes "it was a wake-up call to work around people who have had hard knocks."

Contact staff writer Henry J. Holcomb at 215-854-2614 or hholcomb@phillynews.com

Philadelphia Youth Network

What: An independent nonprofit corporation that works with the school district and city, state and federal agencies to prepare youth for employment.

Goal: To promote and coordinate jobs, internships and training programs for young people 14 and older, funded by employers, government programs and foundations.

Results: During 2007, 8,226 young people were served by its programs.

Contact: 267-502-3880; www.pyinc.org.

SOURCE: PYN

"I didn't expect ... [to] make a difference in such a large company, but I have."

— Sanithia Scales
intern

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RON TARVER / Inquirer Staff Photographer

Talitha Smith learns video editing at EMS Productions on Delaware Avenue in Philadelphia. Eric Squadroni (left), an editor, and Scott Mirkin, president of the company, are on hand to show her how.

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Interns Gary Johnson (left), 18, from Southwest Philadelphia, and David Sampson, 16, of West Philadelphia, join their boss, Michael Pearson, president of Union Packaging, in Yeadon.

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Burrelles Luce Express

OP-ED

Student credits intern program

My Working Solutions experience taught me how to make a number of life choices and important decisions. It also taught me skills I can use in the real world. For example, my job experience educated me about how to conduct myself in front of consumers, professionals and the general public.

The Working Solutions internship gave me valuable experiences that included learning about the corporate world, which included regulations of the banking business, rules of deposit and cash management procedures. These teachings will help me in the future, especially when I save money for college, balance my personal checkbook and set financial goals. My experience also will allow me to prepare for a career in the banking industry.

GUEST COMMENT

Darnell Williams

It is important for Philadelphia companies to support a program such as Working Solutions so young adults can have the chance to work at high-powered companies in the region. By doing so, teens, such as myself, have the opportunity to be part of the working world and learn how to be more responsible. Rather than sitting around and being unproductive, I had the chance to do more than the average teenager this summer. I had the opportunity to better myself as an individual, while gaining valuable working experience.

'My experience **has given me a chance** *to make it in the operational world.'*

If I had the opportunity to talk with the senior executives at the companies that supported Working Solutions, I would thank them. I would thank them for giving me the opportunity to work at Commerce Bank. My experience has given me a chance in life to make it in the operational world. It also has enabled me to communicate with people of different nationalities, personalities, ages and genders.

My Working Solutions experience helped me think about my educational standards too. My career goal was to be an athlete, but as I worked this summer I learned new skills that will help me achieve exciting new future career goals.

This experience helped me get ready for college and interviews. In addition, the time I spent working helped me acquire a better perspective of the professional world and my education.

DARNELL WILLIAMS, 16, is a teller at Commerce Bank's Whitman store. He goes to Northeast High School where he is entering his junior year. The Working Solutions program is a WorkReady Philadelphia initiative run by the Philadelphia Youth Network and backed by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

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Traffic: 7 Incidents
Weather: 37°F
Current Time: 11:13am ET, 03/10/08

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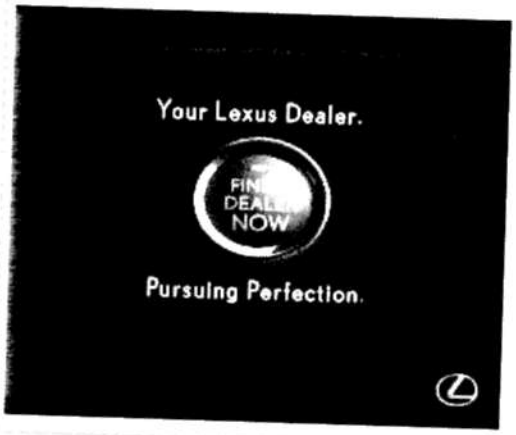

Posted: Tuesday, 04 March 2008 6:57AM

Phila. Officials Look to Double Number of Paid Internships

by KYW's Steve Tawa

The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and City Hall are hoping to line up 2,000 young people for a paid summer internship program called "WorkReady Philadelphia."

Last year, more than a thousand 16-to-21-year old Philadelphians put in at least 20 hours a week during the summer. One of them, Shalea Nicholson, about to graduate from George Washington Carver High School, checked out engineering firm, Pennoni and Associates:

"Not only would I like to get a degree in engineering, because I'm interested in math and science, I would also like to be a lawyer."

Mayor Nutter is reaching out to business leaders to either offer a summer internship, which costs about $1600, or fund position at a non-profit organization:

"Some of you, in addition to what you're doing on your own, will be getting calls from me, because I have call time scheduled."

State representative Josh Shapiro of Montgomery County was scheduled to be at Philadelphia City Hall Tuesday, pushing legislation that would provide a tax credit for businesses that provide internships:

"...that company, or non-profit, would be able to write off 70% of the total cost of the internship for that youth."

The legislation calls fore $20 million in tax credits from The Commonwealth.

For more info, you can log onto **workreadyphila.com**, call **267-502-3800**, or go to a guidance counselor or a principal's office.

Top Stories

Probe Finds Drugs in Area Drinking Water

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Internships need to grow

Anyone who wonders whether it is worth providing internships to city kids should meet Shalea Nicholson.

The George Washington Carver High School student was an intern last summer through a program sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. She worked at **Pennoni Associates Inc.**, a Philadelphia engineering-consulting firm, on all sorts of projects.

It gave her real-world experience for what she hopes will be a career as an engineer or lawyer. Nicholson, a senior, will attend Bennett College for Women in North Carolina this fall to study engineering and pre-law.

"All young people have talent," Nicholson told a conference room packed with media, chamber officials, and job-training experts. "We just need a little push and support."

The business community needs a little of that, too. The push is coming not only from the chamber, which has pledged to find 2,000 internships at area employers this summer, but also from Mayor Nutter, who has said the private sector needs to step up to help change "life expectations" for the city's youth.

This is the third year the chamber has made summer internships a priority. Last year, it found paid internships for 1,049 students. It is asking employers to offer an internship at about $8 an hour for at least 20 hours a week for six weeks in July and August.

"We recognize as employers, large and small, a responsibility and accountability to make sure we create opportunities for young people in our workplaces," said Joseph A. Frick, chairman of the chamber and chief executive officer of **Independence Blue Cross.**

Joseph A. Frick

Think back to a summer job or internship when it first clicked for you. Maybe you realized this is how the world works, or this is what my dad does all day, or this is why my mom is so exasperated when she comes home from her office.

Then realize there are a whole bunch of young people in Philadelphia who never get that break. Sons and daughters from all sorts of

See **PHILLYINC** on C3

families for whom the concept of office work is as foreign as a black-tie fund-raiser.

The United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania says 70,000 people ages 16 to 24 in Philadelphia and its four western suburban counties do not have a job. The Philadelphia Youth Network, through the WorkReady program, placed about 8,000 young people in work settings last year, but turned away at least 3,000 who applied because there were no jobs for them.

The city itself has interns — 990 last year. Nutter said his goal was to add 100 this year. "We will not ask the business community to do anything we will not do ourselves," the mayor said.

Frick said Independence Blue Cross was host to 50 interns in 2007 and has committed to doing so again this year. In addition, the insurer will also fund 62 interns at other nonprofit groups or small businesses.

The chamber says it has identified 401 paid internships for this summer. Four of them will be at Pennoni Associates, which doubled its commitment after being impressed with Nicholson and another Carver High student. In a letter to the chamber, CEO Anthony S. Bartolomeo said the firm had even met with Carver's principal to discuss an ongoing relationship with the school and its students.

More of that needs to happen. Economic slowdown or not, in a city where the high school dropout rate is alarmingly high, the business community would do well to reach out to those 11th and 12th graders who will be knocking on their doors for jobs.

Contact Mike Armstrong at 215-854-2980 or marmstrong@phillynews.com.

See his blog at **www.phillyinc.biz** and Philadelphia Business Today weekday Webcasts at **www.philly.com/business.**

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inc

Mike Armstrong

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Nutter going to bat to help teens get summer jobs

By **VALERIE RUSS**
russv@phillynews.com
215-854-5987

If you're an employer in the Philadelphia area, that could be Mayor Nutter ringing you on the phone right now.

He has pledged to start calling businesses today to pitch the idea of hiring students for summer jobs.

The mayor has joined forces with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Philadelphia Youth Network and WorkReady to announce a campaign to lobby companies to fund at least 2,000 summer jobs this year.

That is twice the goal that WorkReady sought last summer, which it exceeded.

Besides calling employers, Nutter also said the city would increase the number of city government summer jobs by 100 this year.

"We will not ask the businesses to do anything that we won't do," Nutter said yesterday at a news conference at the chamber's offices at Broad and Walnut streets.

He said students exposed to work are more likely to graduate high school and to go on to college than those who are not exposed to work.

Mark Schweiker, president and chief executive of the chamber, said it's not too early to ask employers to hire teens for the summer. So far, 400 jobs have been pledged, not counting Nutter's pledge of 100.

Schweiker also said businesses in the region that may not have jobs for teens could also provide money so that nonprofit agencies can hire interns.

Joe Frick, president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross, said his company will hire 50 interns — the same number it hired last summer — and also pay for an additional 62 jobs at nonprofits organizations.

Two students spoke at the news conference about what they gained from their summer jobs last year.

Andre Howard, 17, a junior at George Washington Carver High School for Engineering and Science, worked in the mail room of the Stradley Ronon law firm. He wants to run his own computer-engineering firm one day.

He said his job gave him confidence and taught him how the corporate world worked. "Who knew you could learn so much by starting in the mail room?" said Howard.

Shalea Nicholson, a senior at Carver, worked at Pennoni and Associates, an engineering firm that she said "trusted me" with important work.

Nicholson said she has been accepted at Bennett College in the fall. The Germantown resident plans to major in engineering and then attend law school.

She urged employers to give other teens a chance to work. Besides what they will learn, she said, "it may take their minds off of all the negative" things going on in the city.

To learn more, young people ages 14 to 21 or their families, may call the WorkReady summer programs hotline at 267-502-3742. Employers may go to www.workready.com. ★

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Two Thousand High School Internships Created

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND WORKREADY PHILADELPHIA DOUBLES LAST YEAR'S TOTAL

By JENNY DeHUFF
THE BULLETIN

PHILADELPHIA — As many as 2,000 would-be high school graduates will have an opportunity to get to work this summer, through the city's new internship program announced yesterday.

A partnership between the city, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and WorkReady Philadelphia, a youth mentoring agency managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network, made the internships possible.

Last year, WorkReady announced 1,049 internships at businesses throughout the city, which helped launch juniors and seniors in high school toward their career goals.

Andre Howard, an 11th grader at George Washington Carver High School for Engineering and Science, was a 2007 summer intern at the Stradley Ronan Stevens & Young law firm in Center City. During his six weeks there, Howard said he learned how to sharpen his social and networking skills while putting his handiwork in at the mailroom.

"While working there I learned to interact and associate with other people — which was good for me — because, before this, I didn't like to talk. I was very laid back. But now I'm outspoken and I love to talk," he told a roomful of reporters yesterday.

"This internship showed me there was a better way to spend your summer, rather than just sitting home watching television."

"We, as employers, large and small, have a responsibility and an accountability to make sure we create opportunities in our work places for the future leaders of our region," said Joe Frick, chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross. Independence Blue Cross boasted its employment of 50 interns last summer and vowed to match that number this year.

"We're here to recognize that we've created a sense of urgency, a sense of momentum and exhibited the power of partnerships," Mr. Frick said.

Mayor Michael Nutter set the bar higher this year, hoping to substantiate 2,000 paid internship positions for Philadelphia youth. Businesses in the area have the option to either offer an internship at their workplace or fund a position at a nonprofit organization.

"It may have frightened folks to put out such an ambitious goal," the mayor said.

"But we should not be afraid to challenge ourselves."

"When we have these kinds of activities, we have to be able to look that child in the eye and say we're doing everything we can, everyday, to make sure they have great life opportunities as they grow up."

In addition to the internship proclamation, Mr. Nutter announced the start of a new office within his administration. The Office of Leadership Investment is slated to "establish the city as a national leader in providing opportunities showing youth the world of work," in the words of Mr. Nutter. The office will employ 100 new people to ensure the effort reaches the five counties of Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, Chester and Philadelphia.

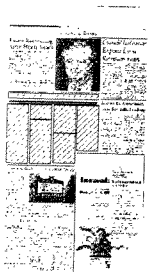
Included in the mayor's budget address three weeks ago was a $1 million line item for WorkReady Philadelphia — the first time the city dedicated funding to a program of this nature.

"We need to change statistics around and provide that sense of hope and optimism for our youth," added State Rep. Josh Shapiro (D-Montgomery County), a primary architect of House Bill 2196, which would provide tax credits for businesses which employ high school interns.

According to Mr. Shaprio, as many as 70,000 young people in the five-county region between the ages of 16 and 24 are unemployed.

Eligible interns must be in the 11th or 12th grade and must complete a pre-employment and workplace expectation seminar. For more information, go to workreadyphila.com.

Jenny DeHuff can be reached at jdehuff@thebulletin.us



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SUMMER JOBS

IT COULD be a great summer for thousands of young people. On Monday the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce said it planned to double the number of summer jobs for youth, a commendable goal that will have a big impact on the region's future.

Nearly 1,000 youths got work through the WorkReady Philadelphia program last summer. This year, the goal is 2,000. The six-week internships begin June 30. The interns work 20 hours a week for about $8 an hour. The businesses pay $1,600 per intern.

Mayor Nutter has pledged that the city will hire 100 youths in a separate summer-job program. State Rep. Joshua D. Shapiro, D-Montgomery, has proposed a bill that will give businesses tax credits (up to 70 percent of their cost) if they hire youths from low-income families. And Sen. Vincent Hughes, D-Phila., is redrafting his Youth Empowerment Services bill that creates summer and year-round employment for youths.

Working youths are good for the community, the city and the commonwealth. More businesses should fuel the economy by sponsoring an intern. For more information: 215-790-3732, www.workreadyphila.com or www.greaterphilachamber.com. ★

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OP-ED

Use internships to open doors

Philadelphia is home to thousands of thriving, innovative, and respected businesses. Jobs at these companies provide meaningful futures for hardworking, talented people from all backgrounds and means. Yet for too long, many of our city's youth with no work experience, professional job skills, or resources to obtain them, have found the doors to jobs at these businesses difficult to open. Promising careers are often completely out of reach for our young people.

Thankfully, that's changing.

In 2006 and 2007, more than 150 employers partnered with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Philadelphia Youth Network to create paid, six-week summer internships through an initiative called Working Solutions. These jobs offer motivated and capable students the opportunity to go to work every day, interact in a business environment, and learn how to set professional goals. It gives them an early taste of the responsibilities of adulthood.

With thousands of young people still wanting work experience, there's much more to be done. That's why we're asking our region's businesses to collectively offer 2,000 paid internships this summer, nearly double the 1,049 created last year.

GUEST COMMENT

Michael Nutter
Joseph A. Frick

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You can help. If your business can't accommodate an intern or is not easy to reach via public transportation, consider making a donation to the Philadelphia Youth Network to fund internships at city non-profits and small businesses, companies that would otherwise be unable to hire interns.

Life is harsh for many city kids. Around 70 percent of our public high school students come from low-income homes. Of the 45 percent of kids who drop out of high school, 63 percent of them drop out before the 10th grade. It's easy for these kids to give up hope of ever becoming productive, contributing members of society. We need to send a message to these young people — you are the future.

Research shows that workplace experience improves school performance, increases post-secondary education, reduces violence and results in higher future wages and employment rates. By investing in students today, we are developing tomorrow's dedicated employees, some who will join our companies at the entry level, and grow into loyal, long-term workers.

On the day following inauguration, the doors to City Hall were opened, welcoming all residents, and signaling that everyone has a role to play in turning our city around. Let us also open our business doors to student interns, and begin to rewrite the future for one of our city's most valuable resources — our youth.

MICHAEL NUTTER is the mayor of Philadelphia, which will hire 1,100 interns. JOSEPH A. FRICK is president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross and chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. IBC will hire 50 interns this year and fund 62 positions at non-profits.

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Intern push could use tax breaks

NOTEBOOK

Bernard Dagenais

Now that the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce has launched a drive to place 2,000 interns with businesses and nonprofits this year, it makes sense for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to pass a tax credit to further encourage employers to hire interns.

Under legislation proposed by Rep. Josh Shapiro, D-Montgomery County, employers would be allowed to claim tax credits up to 70 percent of the cost of employing an at-risk youth.

"The best way to get a gun out of the hand of a young person is to put a job opportunity and a paycheck within their reach," Shapiro said in announcing a hearing on the matter this week.

The legislation defines at-risk youth as being between the ages of 14 and 21 from families with a median income that isn't more than 235 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, the federal poverty level is $21,200 per year.

This bill would help to marry public policy with private action to the mutual benefit of taxpayers and employers.

There's no debate that the chamber's drive meets an important need to connect youths with workplaces throughout Philadelphia. As Mayor Michael Nutter and chamber Chairman Joseph A. Frick point out on the opposing page, it's easy to become discouraged while growing up in some of Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods.

Too many schools are underperforming. Often, those who appear to have the most wealth tap illegal sources of income. Students don't get easy access to professional work environments. In many inner-city neighborhoods, unemployment is high and educational attainment is low. Chances are good they will continue to be part of a cycle of poverty.

They can't pull themselves out of that cycle without some help.

The Philadelphia Youth Network, a work force development nonprofit that administers the chamber program that's called Working Solutions, identifies students who will take advantage of internship opportunities. Offsite training sessions help prepare students to be successful in the office environment.

"We know that to be competitive in the current economy and to improve the opportunities available to our residents, we must do all we can to raise the educational attainment of our labor force, especially our young people," chamber Executive Vice President Joseph Mahoney testified before the House Finance Committee Tuesday.

The pre-screened interns work at least 20 hours per week for six weeks and attend the offsite development programs on Fridays. Employers who want to help, without taking an intern, are being asked to sponsor one to work at a nonprofit.

Last year, 138 businesses hired 1049 interns. In 2006, the chamber program had 444 interns. It took a major push to break the 1,000 mark last year. Doubling it now is ambitious.

The chamber believes that the passage of the tax credit is a key element to the success of the campaign. It will be particularly useful in convincing many small to medium-sized businesses that this is a truly good deal, in addition to being the right thing to do in developing the region and its work force.

The Pennsylvania legislature has made it clear that it has no intention of passing a one-gun-a-month purchasing limit that Philadelphia officials have sought to make the city safer. Passing this bill is a relatively inexpensive measure to help strengthen the economy by reaching out to the very youth who will help drive it.

BERNARD DAGENAIS, editor of Philadelphia Business Journal, can be reached at bdagenais@bizjournals.com.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Paid internships help build confidence and maturity.

Toward a strong workforce

By Joseph A. Frick and Mark S. Schweiker

Often the most daunting part of a new life experience is taking that first step.

For ambitious Philadelphia high school students, the first step into the work world can come with a paid summer internship at a local business. Internships give young people the chance to see what opportunities exist beyond their neighborhoods and to experience for six weeks the challenges — intellectual, physical and sometimes emotional — of working in a professional environment.

"All young people are talented in some way," says Shalea Nicholson, a senior at Philadelphia's George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science. "We just need a little push and support. Everybody wants to feel that they are important and have a purpose."

Shalea took her first step into the professional world last summer as an intern with the engineering firm Pennoni Associates. The experience has helped her gain the confidence she needs to attend Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., in the fall, and pursue her dream of graduating with a joint degree in engineering and pre-law.

Giving other young Philadelphians the opportunity to acquire career skills is why the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the regional business community have taken on a significant challenge issued by Mayor Nutter.

We are working to identify 2,000 paid internships for Philadelphia's young people this summer. This is an ambitious goal — double the number of positions from 2007 — yet we are confident that we will reach it. We know we can count on many civic-minded employers in Philadelphia and its suburbs to find $1,600 in their budgets to hire an intern or as many interns as they can accommodate.

Businesses that cannot host an intern but that still want to be involved can donate $1,600 to fund an internship at a Philadelphia nonprofit organization.

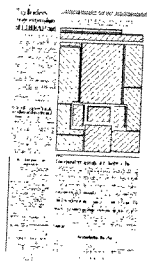
These paid summer internships are coordinated by WorkReady Philadelphia, a broad-based partnership managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network that is dedicated to building the region's future workforce.

Real-world experience provides several important benefits to young people, research indicates. Kids with work experience are less likely to engage in violent activities and more likely to do better in high school and go on to college. And as they mature, they stay in the workforce, earn bigger paychecks, and are promoted to more responsible jobs.

An investment in our young people is a long-term investment in our region's success. To remain competitive in a diverse and changing economy, we must do all we can to develop our workforce. Businesses that support the chamber's summer internship initiative are not only increasing their productivity by hiring industrious workers, but are giving young people the tools and experience to become capable employees.

We hope that employers will see their investment stretch even further if legislation providing a modest tax benefit to businesses that employ underprivileged youths passes in Harrisburg this spring. Under this bill, companies that hire Pennsylvania youngsters from households with annual income less than 235 percent of the federal poverty level would be eligible for tax credits equal to 70 percent of the wages the employer pays that worker.

So far, we have 680 confirmed internships, including 100 jobs the City of Philadelphia has promised. With less than 12 weeks until



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the start of summer, we have our work cut out for us. But we've made a strong first step — and that's the hardest part.

Joseph A. Frick is president and chief executive officer of Independence Blue Cross and chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. IBC will hire 50 interns this summer and fund 62 positions at nonprofits throughout the city. Mark S. Schweiker is president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

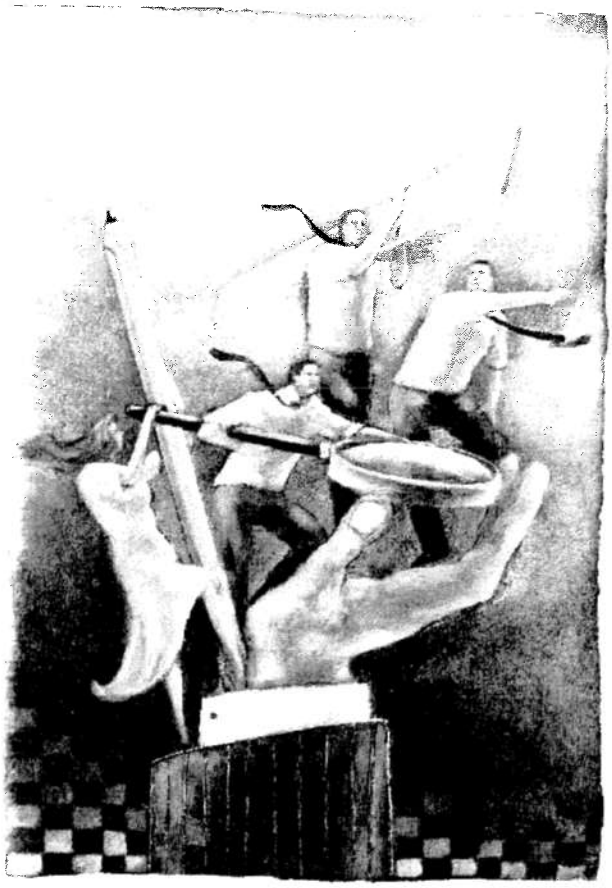
How to Help

For employers, to provide or sponsor an internship, visit www.greaterphilachamber.com or call 215-790-3732.

Students can register with Work Ready Philadelphia by calling 267-502-3742.

Joseph A. Frick

Mark S. Schweiker



CHRIS VAN ES

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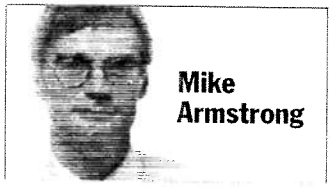

Mike Armstrong

Our ebullient executives

"It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" is not just the name of a cable TV show.

It describes the positive thinking that seems to be catching in the executive suites of Philadelphia-area companies.

A new survey by **KPMG L.L.P.** shows local executives to be fairly bubbly about their companies' prospects and the city's business climate.

A whopping 90 percent of the 106 senior executives polled said the Nutter administration would have a positive impact on business conditions here.

Given that the survey was conducted in February and March, some of those good feelings could just reflect the honeymoon the new mayor is enjoying.

Jerry Maginnis, managing partner of KPMG's Philadelphia office, said he thought there was more to it. "It's one thing to be a cheerleader for the city," he said, but Nutter has an ambitious agenda that has kindled a "sense of optimism" that the challenging business environment will change.

Jerry Maginnis

You and I could predict that the biggest thing businesses want is lower city taxes. But the KPMG survey also asked business-people what they would do to help the city. Forty-eight percent said they would hire summer interns, one of Nutter's pet programs.

In February, the mayor challenged the business community to double its commitment to hire summer interns. The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, which has been championing the effort, set a goal of 2,000 internships, compared with the 1,049 employers provided in 2007.

Given the downshift in the U.S. economy, I thought it would be really tough to nail that. As of yesterday, the chamber had identified 1,039 internships, which will start June 30.

Maginnis said KPMG was doing it part, doubling its summer internships this year to four. But its survey makes it clear the chamber has its work cut out for it to meet its goal:

Forty-six percent have not hired summer interns in the past, and 29 percent said it would be hard to raise their paid-intern ranks this year.

But maybe next year. The survey indicates that 60

See **PHILLYINC** on C2

percent of these regional companies expect better performance a year from now. They say this even though 68 percent say they think it's likely the United States will slide into a recession in the next 12 months.

Maginnis noted that dichotomy. One possible explanation is that Philadelphia has such a diverse economy, with a substantial number of jobs tied to education and medicine — sectors that weather downturns well.

I take every survey with a canister of salt. What people say and what they do are often very different things.

But we've been fairly insulated from the housing-market collapse and job destruction going on in other areas of the country.

Philadelphia's been a good place to be for these executives. No wonder they see even better times ahead.

Contact Mike Armstrong at 215-854-2980 or marmstrong@phillynews.com.

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BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

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Helping businesses help kids

A state legislator is pushing for a youth employment tax credit for businesses that hire interns from lower-income families.

By JOHN ANASTASI
STAFF WRITER

Efforts to fold a youth employment tax credit for businesses and nonprofit organizations into Pennsylvania's new budget have fallen short, but the measure could pass as a standalone bill in the fall, its author said.

State Rep. Josh Shapiro, D-Montgomery County, designed the Youth Employment Incentive Tax Credit to allow companies and nonprofits that provide internships for lower-income people ages 14 to 21 to apply for tax credits totaling 70 percent of the expenses (such as wages, fringe benefits and training) related to those internships.

To be eligible for the tax credit, the intern would need to qualify as a disadvantaged youth. That is defined as someone from a family whose median income doesn't exceed 235 percent of the federal poverty level. That level is adjusted yearly. This year, an intern from a family of four with an annual income of less than $49,820 would qualify as a disadvantaged youth.

"If you want to help young people stay off the streets, the best way to do it is with education and job opportunities and this does both," said Shapiro, who added such internships could even help curb youth violence.

The Montgomery County legislator said he came up with the idea after meeting with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's board of directors. "The No. 1 issue they raised was expanding on their internship programs," Shapiro said.

"If you're one of the big companies, the tax credit is nice but not

See **TAX CREDIT**, 9A

necessary to do the internship," Shapiro said. "Where we need to 'incentivize' is the small business with eight or nine people."

Those businesses are more likely to struggle with the cost of hiring and training an intern, he said.

"This could make a real difference by opening up more opportunities," said Shapiro.

The bill, which includes a $20 million maximum state allocation per year, passed the House Finance Committee as an separate bill. Shapiro is hoping the full House approves it in the fall.

Under the bill, businesses would submit applications to their local workforce investment boards for review. The workforce boards would forward the applications to the state's revenue department.

"We think it's a great idea," said Garney Morris, who chairs the Bucks County Workforce Investment Board. "We're encouraging it."

The state needs to make offering internships more attractive to companies for the sake of developing a pool of skilled young workers.

"Without the employers, we're stuck in a puddle," he said.

Shapiro's 153rd District includes Abington and Upper Dublin.

John Anastasi can be reached at 215-949-4170 or janastasi@phillyBurbs.com.

"If you want to help young people stay off the streets, the best way to do it is with education and job opportunities and [Youth Employment Incentive Tax Credit] does both.

STATE REP. JOSH SHAPIRO, D-MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Internships: A rewarding reach back

NOTEBOOK

Bernard Dagenais

As the door begins to close on this year's WorkReady Philadelphia summer internship program, there is still time for companies to step up. There are still students waiting for internships.

The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce-backed program run by the Philadelphia Youth Network provided more than 1,000 Philadelphia youth — primarily older high school students — with internships last year. These students got to see what it's like to be part of an office environment while building professional connections that can be expanded upon in the years ahead.

This year a 2,000-intern goal was set by Mayor Michael Nutter. With plans to all but wrap up the program's recruitment on Monday, it's unlikely the goal will be met. If organizers break the 1,500 mark, as they expect, that will count as substantial progress. In 2006, there were only 440 interns in the program.

"We're encouraged by the care and civic-mindedness that employers bring to this endeavor," said Mark Schweiker, president and CEO of the chamber.

Officials have students waiting for placements and are prepared to sign up additional companies. Can you help?

A high percentage of companies that have taken interns in past years are signing up again. There are 169 companies participating this year, with 79 new companies on the list. That leaves plenty of room for growth.

Companies that want to support the program can fund an intern at a nonprofit rather than take the intern on themselves. Either way, the program fee is $1,600.

Interns get off-site training one day each week, along with some valuable résumé experience and a look at a way of life they might not otherwise see.

Besides Citizens Bank, whose CEO makes his case for the program in this week's Op-Ed, companies taking on multiple interns include Brown's Superstores with 25, Independence Blue Cross with 80, Commerce Bank with 25, and Comcast with 25. But the small to midsize businesses that are taking one intern each are as important to the program overall.

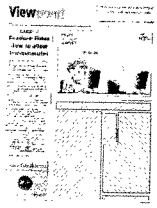
At the Philadelphia Business Journal, our WorkReady intern last summer helped with phones and sat at the front desk, freeing up our receptionist to do other work. She was a quiet, competent presence who helped fill in while others were on vacation. Since the internship ended, she has been in the office occasionally to fill in when staff members are out. We've also used high school interns in the past to work the phones and increase response to our Book of Lists surveys. Employees who are not in management have become mentors, guides and, when needed, taskmasters to ensure standards are met. We've seen tremendous and gratifying growth in some of our interns.

Internships also can be motivating to employees who appreciate seeing their company give back in this way.

What's perhaps most important about internships is they get companies involved with city youth who are looking for ways to break patterns of poverty. It's an opportunity for students to realize first-hand that people care enough to provide a bit of opportunity. It will be up to the interns to decide how to capitalize on the chances they get, ideally by learning from their time with a company, working to establish relationships and respectfully nurturing those relationships over time as they continue their education.

For these students, internships provide a window to a world filled with promise and opportunity. Employers benefit by helping out and also can identify potential future employees. Please use the contact information at the bottom of the column at right to help.

BERNARD DAGENAIS, editor of Philadelphia Business Journal, can be reached at bdagenais@bizjournals.com.



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Citizens Bank

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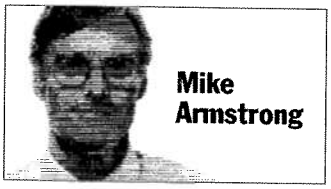

Mike Armstrong

Internships on the rise

Last week, while you were looking forward to your backyard barbecue, 1,500 Philadelphia-area students got their first taste of the office.

These summer interns are part of the third year of a program championed by the **Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce** and egged on by Mayor Nutter.

Organizers fell short of their goal of 2,000 internships. Still, the trend is encouraging. Area employers supported 1,049 interns in 2007 and 441 in 2006.

Mayor Nutter

Plus, the U.S. economy has been losing jobs. So getting employers to fund six-week internships at $1,600 a pop in this program shows some real commitment.

"The increase is significant especially with the state of the economy," said Megan Cribbs, a spokeswoman for the chamber. "We're certainly helping more students gain professional experience."

And that's the real point of this exercise. Companies often complain that entry-level workers here aren't prepared for the world of work.

Summer internships are a chance for a company to teach one or two high-school students what is expected of them once they graduate. Some might even be inspired by the daily grind.

Another positive sign: Of the 175 employers participating this year, 80 are new to the program, Cribbs said. And 295 of those 1,500 internships are being sponsored by businesses at nonprofits who can always use help.

Internships are transitory. But I have a hunch for many of these students it's going to be a memorable few weeks.

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OP-ED

Invest in future with interns

Hiring a summer intern is not only a good deed. It is a good business investment.

Interns are a source of enthusiastic, temporary and inexpensive labor. They boost summer productivity by completing short-term assignments that produce real results for employers.

And more than ever, Philadelphia young people, who have limited access to such opportunities, need the chance to work in a professional environment and earn a paycheck.

GUEST COMMENT

Mike Carbone and Mark Schweiker

That is why, for the third consecutive year, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Michael Nutter are encouraging regional employers — from large corporations to small businesses — to provide a paid summer internship for a Philadelphia young person.

The cost of a six-week summer internship is $1,600, but the payoff can be incalculable. These interns may become your employees of tomorrow.

That's how Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) hospital in Juniata Park discovered a valuable employee in Christine Vega. Several years ago when her aunt died of cancer, Christine vowed to work in health care after she graduated from Olney High School East. An intern at CTCA last summer, Christine did such a good job that she was offered a permanent position. Today she attends career training classes and works part time as the volunteer office coordinator, helping to recruit new volunteers and assisting with community projects.

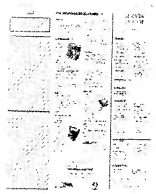
CTCA will employ eight interns this summer, double its commitment last year. Businesses that can't host an intern can still be involved by funding an internship at a nonprofit organization.

We believe an investment in our youth today is also a long-term investment in our region's success. Research indicates that kids with work experience are more likely to go on to college, stay in the work force and move up in our companies. As stakeholders in the future of this region, it is essential that we connect young people with the professional opportunities that exist beyond their neighborhoods.

This campaign demonstrates that the business community is not sitting on the sidelines at this critical time. Employers have committed nearly 600 internship positions. The goal is 1,500, matching last year. Internships are open to Philadelphia students who will enter 11th grade or higher in the fall. All students are pre-screened and interviewed by the prospective employers. With just weeks to go until the start of the program, we ask you to step up for Philadelphia youth and make a place for them this summer at your company.

Visit greaterphilachamber.com or call 215-790-3732.

MIKE CARBONE is metro Philadelphia president of TD Bank, the chamber's corporate partner in its summer internships initiative. TD Bank will hire 25 interns this summer. MARK SCHWEIKER is president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.



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OP-ED

Educational investments pay

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS COLUMN COMES AS the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Philadelphia Youth Network are in search of more companies to participate in their summer internship in the program, which places high school students in workplaces for six weeks in the summer. So far, less than half of the 1,500-internship goal has been reached. It costs $1,600 to provide an internship, and companies can also choose to fund interns for nonprofits. Interns come prescreened and get to participate in weekly training programs that are run by organizers. More information is available about the program at www.greaterphilachamber.com or call 215-790-3732.

GUEST COMMENT

Daniel K. Fitzpatrick

President Clinton visited Philadelphia recently for a policy forum at the National Constitution Center. Along with Philadelphia Academies, and the CEO Ambassadors for 21st Century Skills, Clinton and key business leaders, educators, grant makers and elected officials gathered to discuss "Preparing a 21st Century Workforce."

The event was held at a critically important time in light of a new report that chronicles the devastating personal, societal and taxpayer impact when a student drops out of high school. By comparison, a high school graduate has almost twice the lifetime earnings of a high school dropout — about $871,000 versus $457,000, and a four-year college graduate earns more than four times as much $2.05 million versus $457,000.

In short, education is the most basic building block of any economy. It is intertwined with internships, jobs skills, work force training, economic growth and the long term sustainability of our region.

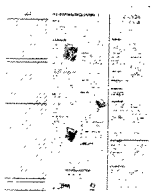
Clinton challenged us to change how we deliver education to young people. The CEO Ambassadors for 21st Century Skills heartily agrees, believing we need to take immediate action to focus on education and to ramp up support for effective programs such as the Philadelphia Academies, whose career-connected education model was repeatedly praised by Clinton. His remarks were also a call to action to embrace and support the Philadelphia Youth Network-Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's summer internship program, which exposes students to a workplace environment and provides the opportunity to develop new skills.

We can begin to recalibrate our education delivery model by creating a culture of opportunity, raising expectations, and demanding excellence from our children.

It's up to business leaders, educators, and work force development experts to ignite a new sense of urgency around education and job training. Let this forum be a call to action to support and invest in our schools and our young people so we are ready to meet the challenges of a "21st Century Workforce".

Our future depends on it.

DANIEL K. FITZPATRICK is Citizens Bank's president and CEO for Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware and chairman of the CEO Ambassadors for 21st Century Skills, a committee of executives who promote work force development in the region.



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Short-time offer makes big difference

NOTEBOOK

Bernard Dagenais

It's no big surprise that the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's internship program isn't seeing the level of interest it had a year ago.

But smaller numbers add up to a painful loss for hundreds of high school students who won't get to participate in a potentially life-changing experience this year.

There's still time for companies to step up and make a difference. Improving economic opportunity is the best cure for so much of what ails Philadelphia, and internships crack open a door that would otherwise be closed to many inner-city youth with potential.

While not every business can offer an internship, particularly in this economy, those who don't lose out on a rewarding opportunity to make a big difference in someone's life while playing a part in helping the region.

At this writing, the chamber expects to offer less than half of the nearly 1,500 internships created last summer. It's partner, the Philadelphia Youth Network, already has prescreened 1,400 interns and expects to have more ready by the deadline next week.

Many will be turned away.

The value of internships is most apparent in the lives they have changed. A year ago, Aquin Houston, a George Washington High School junior with good grades, was working at McDonald's on a track to become a supervisor. He thought he might attend community college after graduation, but he had no particular direction.

An internship at Independence Blue Cross changed that. Last summer, Houston worked with the insurer's manager of work force development. He has continued to work part time, helping to facilitate the work of the Blue Crew, IBC's volunteer corps. His exposure to an office environment, which included learning about appropriate attire and working in a cubicle, opened up a new world.

"When I first came there, I wasn't sure what I was going to do," he said of IBC.

Houston, 18, has been accepted to Temple University, where he expects to major in business management in the fall.

"I had never been in a skyscraper. I didn't know how to tie a tie," he said. "The experience, it really helped out with my résumé. My résumé really looks good now."

For many interns, including Houston, the program provides a first-time office experience. It opens young eyes to standards that have to be met and goals worth working toward.

The cost of the six-week program is $1,600 for an intern who typically works 20 hours per week and attends professional development sessions offsite on Fridays.

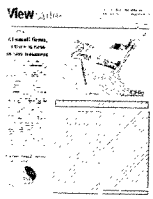
In the past, companies have trained interns to help fill in for employees on vacation or carved out special projects that would benefit the company. Often mid-level employees get the opportunity to supervise or mentor an intern, making it a learning experience for both.

Chamber President and CEO Mark Schweiker described interns as "genuinely productive." He added that the structure of the program was popular with employers and the dropoff this year isn't for lack of willingess, but for lack of funding.

New companies to the program this year include Deloitte, Parente Randolph, Philadelphia University and Cephalon. Some participants put up the $1,600 to pay for the interns to work at nonprofit groups.

With a deadline at the end of next week, there are still more companies in the region that could offer an internship. Those who can step up can call 215-790-3732 or go to www.greaterphilachamber.com to get the ball rolling.

BERNARD DAGENAIS, editor of Philadelphia Business Journal, can be reached at bdagenais@bizjournals.com. Follow posts at Twitter.com/berniedagenais.



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The Philadelphia Inquirer
07.10/09

A federal helping hand for youths

U.S. stimulus funds are beginning to show up in the form of new and meaningful jobs.

By Tom Infield and Max Stendahl
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Although just 15 years old, he's already 6½ feet tall. So you can easily understand why Jerimyjah Batts dreams of one day playing professional basketball.

But he's smart enough to know he'd better have a backup plan.

So for four hours each weekday this summer, Batts will be learning about geography at Temple University and using GPS technology to help mark trails in Fairmount Park.

The sophomore at Communications Technology High School is among 125,000 American youths who have gained jobs this summer as a result of the $787 billion stimulus program enacted in February.

Youth Summer Jobs

Number of jobs in the Philadelphia region provided by the federal stimulus program, by county.

Pennsylvania	
Philadelphia	2,533
Montgomery	140
Bucks	121
Delaware	100
Chester	100
New Jersey	
Camden	600
Gloucester	130
Burlington	60

SOURCE: Pa. and N.J. Departments of Labor
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The White House counts their part-time hours toward the 600,000 jobs of all kinds it says the stimulus will save or create this summer.

Batts, taking a break from a class inside Temple's Gladfelter Hall, said he didn't know a lot about the stimulus program. But he said he was "glad to have a job."

Without it, he said, he'd be "just laying at home, watching TV."

If not an NBA player, he said, he hoped to be a counselor. He recognized, he said, that he'd probably need to go to college, and he hopes to "bring my C's up."

If he sticks with his six-week job — in which he is earning the minimum wage, $7.25 an hour — he could qualify for an elective-course credit at his high school.

The stimulus program in-

See **STIMULUS** on A20

Stimulus boosts meaningful jobs for youths

STIMULUS from A1

cludes $1.2 billion for youth employment, including this summer's program. The funding beefs up a federally financed program that has existed for years.

In Pennsylvania, it means as much as $31 million in additional money to finance about 8,700 youth jobs this summer. In New Jersey, a windfall of $20.8 million in extra money will pay for about 6,500 jobs.

The funding is geared toward low-income youth. The stimulus will pay for about 2,500 jobs in Philadelphia and 600 in Camden. Six other counties in the region will get smaller shares of the jobs.

The Philadelphia Youth Network, which runs the summer jobs programs in the city, placed Batts in a program sponsored by Temple University and the Friends of the Wissahickon.

The 82 students in his group will spend two weeks on campus and the rest of their time working in the park. According to a program description, they'll work with Temple students and others "in generating spatial data sets related to a park project that will place markers on new trails."

If that sounds sophisticated, it's meant to.

The program is typical of many, city officials said. They're intended to offer more than the drudgery of sweeping playgrounds or picking up litter. Some involve academics, and all are aimed at providing "meaningful work."

RON TARVER / Staff Photographer

Temple University program director Michele Masucci briefs student Mehran Chughtai on an orienteering exercise that teaches participants to use GPS devices and satellite imagery.

"It's preparing them to move into the workforce in a good way," said Sallie A. Glickman, executive director of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board. "They can build a portfolio and a resumé, and all the things they need to get a job."

Mayor Nutter, in an interview, said: "It's not just about the money [for the job-holders]. ... We're trying to get young people focused on 'What are you going to do as you move through high school?' "

Counties have some leeway in shaping the summer youth program.

In Montgomery County, 140 youths are earning more than the minimum wage — $8 an hour — and some of what they are doing does, in fact, involve physical labor.

"They need to learn how to come to work on time, work in teams, get along with the boss," said Gerald Birkelbach, executive director of the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board. "... There is dignity in all work, and having a productive summer — that really is the goal."

But he agreed that the experience had to be "meaningful work, not just picking up rocks in the parking lot."

On Tuesday, on the second day of the Philadelphia program, part of Batts' group was sitting in a darkened classroom at Gladfelter Hall. On a screen, a leader was showing Google satellite images of objects in the region, nation, and world. The students were using geographic clues to identify the objects.

At the same time, out on campus, another part of the group was on a sort of scavenger hunt. Michele Masucci, the Temple program director, said that, in principle, there was little difference between learning to navigate in an urban landscape and in the woods the students will explore later.

The group's objective on a sun-soaked day was a square patch of grass next to Anderson Hall. Group members located it using satellite images and a series of narrative clues that led them from one part of campus to the next.

Most of the youths were from Temple's neighborhood in North Philadelphia.

Chablis Morant, 14, said she entered the program to learn about environmental science, which she hopes to study in college.

"I wanted to learn about how to get ready for work and be prepared," said Morant, who will enter Cardinal Dougherty High School as a freshman in the fall.

For Kia Howard, 14, the program represents her first job.

She wants to learn about environmental issues — an interest that her mother has fostered by becoming more ecofriendly at home.

"We're trying to do everything green now," said Howard, who will be a freshman at Frankford High School.

Tyler Hynes, 15, a rising junior at St. Joseph's Prep who hopes to become a psychiatrist, said: "It's good to have some sort of background in any given subject."

Contact staff writer Tom Infield at 610-313-8205 or tinfield@phillynews.com.

MONTGOMERY MEDIA
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North Light summer internship provides opportunity for teen to give back

Published: Thursday, August 20, 2009

By Justin Childs

It was a typical day at Lankenau High School in Upper Roxborough, when then sophomore, Ja'Carr Highter went to lunch and spotted a table set up in the corner with all types of information about summer jobs.

She went over to that table and was met by Billy Eisenberg, Director of Educational Services for North Light Community Center, who introduced her to the 2009 Summer Career Exploration Program. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Youth Network with support from the Brook J. Lenfest Foundation, the program gives youth all over the city an opportunity to work summer jobs according to their interests.

Ja'Carr learned that if she applied to the program, she would have to go through a rigorous interview process, and that she would not be guaranteed a job, as there were only 37 spots available.

Not to be deterred, Ja'Carr and she went to North Light with her application and to submit her candidacy for a summer job. "I never had a job before" said Ja'Carr. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to get started in the work force." After a highly competitive interview process, Ja'Carr was selected to fill one of the coveted spots.

Ja'Carr's story however is unique. The job she was selected for was to intern as Development Assistant at the St. Malachy School in North Philadelphia. This was the same school, where Ja'Carr, almost 10 years prior attended elementary school. "St. Malachy has been an important part of my life, not only did I go here when I was younger, but it's also become my first job."

July 6, 2009 was her first day, and already she has amassed a vast knowledge of what the workforce is like, and how hard it is to earn a dollar in this economy of 2009. "I realize that a lot of people don't have jobs and a lot of other teens applied for the same job I have. I appreciate

working and earning my own money."

Ja'Carr's supervisor at St. Malachy is Brittney McKeon, who previously worked as a Development Intern at North Light Community Center and sat on the board of directors. McKeon was excited to reconnect with North Light for this internship: "I wanted the opportunity to introduce development to another young adult and felt this was the perfect way to not only do just that but also make yet another connection with North Light."

In addition to working this summer, Ja'Carr has said that she wants to attend SAT prep classes, as she is a rising junior at Lankenau. With all that is piled on to her plate this summer, Ja'Carr still finds time to babysit her 2 younger brothers and continue to be a role model of a big sister.

The SCEP program not only has helped Ja'Carr, but countless youth all across the city. In particular, North Light Community Center has given 36 other youth summer jobs and all are doing well. In a city filled with so many stories of young people choosing to do the wrong thing, these students have chosen to be different from the crowd and to do the right thing. Ja'Carr is a shining example of what hard work, dedication and commitment can get you when you buckle down and work hard.

North Light Community Center, located at 175 Green Lane, is a multi-service community-based nonprofit in Manayunk that provides vital educational, childcare, athletic, youth development and emergency supports. These programs offer critical access and nourish personal empowerment, positively impacting youth, strengthening families and enriching the community. North Light was founded in 1936 and serves over 2,700 people annually. For additional information on SCEP or other North Light programs or services, please contact Billy Eisenberg at (215) 483-4800 x107 or visit the Web site at www.northlightcommunitycenter.org.

Posted: 31 Jul 2009 04:19 AM PDT
Marshall County Tribune

Summer jobs stimulated by feds

Wednesday, July 29, 2009
By Clint Confehr, Senior Staff Writer

Josh Freiling, 19, of Lewisburg separates recyclable aluminum housings from plastic and electronic parts as part of his summer job with Marshall County.

Forty-three offices and shops in Marshall County have employed more than 90 people in the summer youth jobs program that's subsidized by federal stimulus money.

"This is the first time there's been a summer youth program in Marshall County under this program," says Sylvia Drusilla Davis, the county coordinator for the program administered by the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance headquartered in Columbia.

A couple of employees include Josh Freiling, 19, of Lewisburg, who's looking for other work and while he likes what he's doing, he's not sure he wants another job in recycling.

Another was Josh Lankford, 22, who's been called back to military service and has proved to be important to the Marshall County Veterans Service Office where Director Billy Hill says that without Lankford, or someone in that job, there are interruptions to his personal attention to servicemen and women and their relatives who frequently bring him complicated issues.

"I really appreciate his professionalism," Hill said of Lankford who brought an air of military demeanor to a county office serving veterans who are used to such respect. "I hate to lose him."

While only three years older than Freiling, Lankford's life experience reflects national and world issues. State and federal issues are approached as the Workforce Alliance has served him this summer.

Lankford enlisted in the Army at McKenzie, Tenn., in October of 2005 and mustered out in December of 2007 after fulfilling assignments that included some work overseas.

"Surprisingly, it was hard for me to find any permanent job, even in security," he said, having been told by friends and others that veterans don't have trouble getting work.

He bounced from one factory job to another, having won assignments through employment agencies, but he soon realized that while he was told he could work toward making that a permanent job, he was typically among those who were last hired and first fired when layoffs were ordered.

Without health insurance and his wife, Stefanie Daws-Lankford, expecting their second child around Thanksgiving, the young couple seems to have been secured by the military as Lankford was called back.

Now, he's taken some time off before returning to uniform service and taking off for Afghanistan. He will soon have enough time in the military to use his GI Bill benefits. Lankford wants to study to become a pharmacist.

But military work and civilian office work are different and Lankford says, "This has really helped me out."

He found the position here by going to the Columbia State Community College campus on South Ellington Parkway where he met career advisor Tia Anderson at the Workforce Office. She referred him to the Summer Youth Program.

It's been so popular that Davis was able to exceed her goal of 75 youth in summer jobs, so she'll have to wait before finding another assistant at the Veteran's Office.

Meanwhile, as Hill misses Lankford, so do the senior citizens at the center down the hall in the Hardison Annex where Wilma Roger wishes him well because of her respect for the military.

She even composed a short poem for him: "Your name is Josh. I hope you like squash."

timesfreepress.com
Chattanooga Times Free Press

'Erasers' target Chattanooga's graffiti

Saturday, July 11, 2009

By:
Cliff Hightower (Contact)

Staff Photo by Matt Fields-Johnson Jason Hudgins, 24, Indian Hills uses gray spray-paint to cover graffiti on the side of a building on River Street. Mr. Hudgins is part of the Summer Youth Program Graffiti removal crew that began on Friday.

Eighteen-year-old Quarderius Clark holds onto the paint roller, moving it back and forth, covering symbols spray-painted in black on the side of a red-brick building.

Along with five other young men, he is painting the side of a building "tagged" by graffiti.

"I've never painted before," Mr. Clark said, who plans to attend King College in Bristol, Tenn., in the fall. "It's new to me. But you clean up the city. It makes it look nice."

Mr. Clark and the others are part of the city's "Chatt Town Erasers" graffiti removal team. The task is part of a summer work program that started last year and continues again this year through Friday.

The workers used red paint to cover the graffiti. On Friday, the team "erased" graffiti on a building next to the First Tennessee Pavilion on Carter Street and the former Independent Glass building at the site of the old Farmers' Market on 11th Street.

Mayor Ron Littlefield said graffiti-erasing projects were so well done last year, it led to another year.

"It proved to be so popular, we brought it back," he said.

The program has had "a lasting impact," he said. He recently visited a building on Cherry Street where summer youth painted over graffiti last year and no more graffiti was seen, he said.

The young men working on the program this year were selected after applying through the Chattanooga Career Center, officials said.

Brandon Clark, 19, worked Friday with a paint brush in hand, covering graffiti on the side of a building.

"I think it's a good idea cleaning up the community," he said. "The city needs it."

GETTING GRAFFITI REMOVED

Cleanup crews also will cover graffiti on private property, city officials said. The owner of the property should call 311 and set up the appointment. The owner of the property must provide paint to cover the graffiti, officials said.

TheStewartHoustonTimes.com

Summer workers reap success

AUGUST 11, 2009

Several weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that funds from the federal economic stimulus package would supply summer employment opportunities for local area youth.
Administered by Workforce Essentials through local Tennessee Career Centers, individuals age 14 – 24 years earn $7.25 or more per hour while working in a variety of job environments.

d the program in Houston County provided worthwhile work experiences for 50 youth, while supplying 22 area employers or government agencies with extra help this summer. Stewart County has 53 students among its 22 job sites.
"This has been a wonderful opportunity for both Houston and Stewart County's businesses and youth. The employer filled out the time sheet, Workforce Essentials paid the wages, and the students earned valuable work experience plus a paycheck," explained Marla Rye, President, Workforce Essentials.
There have been many interesting stories that have unfolded from giving job opportunities to young adults.
Some young workers took pictures of their very first paycheck while others were finally able to reach a savings goal and purchase their first car by working through this program.

In Houston County, a team of young workers were assigned to help out with the library's summer programs for children. They enjoyed the interaction with the children and learning how to work as members of a team.
In Stewart County, Thomas Cochran was a standout young worker. He was assigned to Manor House of Dover to assist the director of activities, work in the kitchen and help with the laundry.
What makes Cochran's story extra compelling is that he has no means of transportation and walked eight miles to and from work every day.
His employer said he never complained, was always on time, and was super reliable. Manor House of Dover recognized his dedication and offered him a job once the summer program was over.

Overall, WorkForce Essentials' summer youth employment program placed 862 qualified young people aged 14 – 24 years old into part-time or full-time jobs in Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, and Williamson Counties.

Posted: 29 Jul 2009 06:13 AM PDT

The Tennessean

Youth discover jobs program

Youth Can, Discovery Center provide teens summer work

THE DAILY NEWS JOURNAL • JULY 28, 2009

Instead of spending their summer goofing off or wishing they had a job to earn some extra cash, a group of Murfreesboro teens found their help was needed at the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring as part of the Youth CAN program.

The Youth CAN program, a division of Mid-Cumberland Human Resources Agency, is a summer program designed to provide meaningful and productive employment experiences for young adults. The program benefited this year by getting some of the federal stimulus funds that pumped $25 million into the state.

"The program has been a great success," Discovery Center executive director Billie Little said of Youth CAN in a news release. "It shows what young adults can do when given the chance to be creative, productive and engaged in a positive work environment."

The Discovery Center was one of nearly 70 community agencies and businesses, including The Daily News Journal, that provided summer work sites and enabled Youth CAN clients to learn work skills while earning a salary.

The five teens who worked at the Discovery Center brought unique backgrounds and personal skills that enhanced the services at the hands-on museum in Murfreesboro, center officials said.

Youth CAN case manager Jim Lieb and the Discovery Center's special projects assistant, Alicia Meade, introduced the Discovery Center as a worksite for the five Murfreesboro teens.

Felicia Gaskins, Buddy Richardson, Anna Houser, Chris Moses and Ana Browning worked together to plan, coordinate and implement four new programs for the children's museum, according to the center.

The programs engaged museum guests in a variety of activities with the goal of promoting science, reading, art and health education for children. In addition, the Youth CAN workers hosted the Discovery Center's first plant sale and wrote, directed and performed a puppet show to promote discrimination awareness.

The puppet show project "exceeded all expectations" for both the supervisors and the participants themselves. Meade said the project emerged from a puppet-making activity the workers had done with young visitors. "The idea of putting on the show was really their idea," she said.

Meade encouraged them to write a script, design and build a set, make the additional puppets and then perform the program. Within days, this team of five teens brainstormed ideas, wrote a play about diversity, and put the set

together for performances. After a couple of rehearsals they started performing twice daily for the visitors to the center.

Meade, who coordinated the summer program, said, "This was a win-win opportunity for all of us."

ProQuest

Databases selected: ProQuest Newspapers

12,000 youths in Tenn. could get stimulus jobs

Bonna Johnson. **The Tennessean.** Nashville, Tenn.: Mar 12, 2009.

Abstract (Summary)

Job analysts forecast unemployment rates in the high double-digits for teens this summer as employers scale back and as adults in search of hourly wages snap up the jobs that are available. "Based on how bad things were last summer and what has happened with job losses in the labor market, we expect this summer may be on par or set a new record," said Joseph McLaughlin, a senior research associate with the Boston-based Center for Labor Market Studies.

Full Text (1111 words)

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THE TENNESSEAN

In what could be one of the worst summers ever for young people looking to land jobs, there is one bright spot: about 12,000 jobs for youth are coming to Tennessee in June as part of the federal stimulus.

The jobs will go to low-income 14- to 24-year-olds and will be in places like state parks and government offices. Some private employers with established internship programs also may take part.

The $25 million program is part of a larger $1.2 billion pool of stimulus funds aimed at putting young people to work nationwide. In Tennessee, participants will make $7.25 to $10 an hour -- paid by stimulus funds, not the employer, during the eight-week program.

"Awesome," said 17-year-old Jasmine Wilson, a bubbly East Literature Magnet High School senior. She may not get one of the stimulus jobs, but she figures the federal program could help others and free up other summer jobs for her.

Wilson has tried with no luck to land jobs at a dress shop, a downtown Italian restaurant, a dry cleaner and several fast-food places.

"It's frustrating. Nobody called back for an interview," said Wilson, who needs the money to pay for graduation invitations, college application fees and other expenses.

Job analysts forecast unemployment rates in the high double-digits for teens this summer as employers scale back and as adults in search of hourly wages snap up the jobs that are available.

Indeed, some teen-friendly workplaces that have no minimum education requirements are seeing a flood of applications from experienced adults who have had trouble finding work elsewhere. Nashville Shores, a water park that hopes to hire 300 people to fill summer positions, expects more than 1,000 people to apply during the course of three job fairs -- the first of which is scheduled Saturday.

Nashville Shores expects more adults to apply for jobs in sales or even as lifeguards this year, including some with master's degrees. "When we call them back, they're telling us that, at this point, they want anything," said David Businda, director of park operations.

Teen job market tightens

Last summer, the unemployment rate for Tennessee teens, ages 16 to 19, soared to 31 percent. In 2007, the figure

was 18 percent, and in 2006 it was 13 percent.

"Based on how bad things were last summer and what has happened with job losses in the labor market, we expect this summer may be on par or set a new record," said Joseph McLaughlin, a senior research associate with the Boston-based Center for Labor Market Studies. Nationally, last summer ranked as the most dismal job market for teens in the post-World War II era, he said.

In Nashville, organizers of youth job fairs say fewer employers seem to be in a hiring mood -- even among sure bets from years past. Ice cream shops don't need as many scoopers as they once did; public libraries don't need as many teenage workers to shelve books.

At the Donelson Baskin-Robbins, for instance, manager Kim Gleaves usually doubles the summer staff from two to four workers on every shift. "I'll probably hire a couple more kids, but it will depend on the money we bring in," Gleaves said this week.

It may be a brighter picture at Nashville Shores. Despite the economic downturn, the summer attraction has sold more season passes than it did last year -- perhaps more families are giving up vacations to stick closer to home -- and it has no plans to scale back its workforce. It will hold a series of job fairs, starting this weekend.

Young people in the stimulus program will work between 25 to 35 hours per week.

Although teens as young as 14 can apply, the program probably will be geared toward 17- to 24-year-olds because of labor law restrictions on younger workers, said Susan Cowden, employment and workforce development administrator at the Tennessee Labor Department.

To qualify, teens must be from low-income families, such as those that participate in the state's food stamp or welfare programs, and face other barriers, such as being disabled or in foster care.

While most of the stimulus jobs will be in government agencies, such as driver's license offices, some private employers could also qualify to take part, Cowden said. For instance, places with established internship programs that can show they will provide a meaningful work experience may be considered, officials said.

But companies that have laid-off workers won't be able to hire summer help to take their places. "We don't want to create job losses within the regular work force or to supplant work that was being done by people who lost their jobs," Cowden said.

Some work with no pay

At the Nashville Career Advancement Center, a March 28 jobs fair will be refashioned as an activities fair because organizers can't find enough companies willing to pay to hire teens.

Nonprofits will be there to recruit teens to participate in structured volunteer activities, which don't pay but could provide a valuable work experience and teach responsibility, said Ellen Zinkiewicz, director of youth and community services.

Zinkiewicz worries that as the economy worsens, more teens could lose out on valuable first-time job experiences to adults who are forced to apply for entry-level jobs to pay the bills.

"You can't take anything away from an unemployed adult who has a family to feed, but everyone remembers their first job and the life skills they learned," said Austin Lavin, 24, co-founder of Philadelphia-based MyFirstPaycheck.com, a job site for teens. "Don't underestimate the affordable, enthusiastic energy that teenagers can provide," he said.

Antioch teenager Kenya Douglas is one of those enthusiastic students in the midst of a job search. The 16-year-old junior has applied at five different places only to hear that they would rather not hire someone under 18.

"They think we're not as responsible as adults or have as much experience," said Douglas, who has a car note and insurance bills to pay. Douglas said she would feel a bit guilty about taking a job away from an adult with a family to support but added, "teens should have a fair shot, too."

Contact Bonna Johnson at 615-726-5990 or bjohnson@tennessean.com.

JOB FAIRS ON TAP

Nashville Shores, the water park, plans three job fairs to fill 300 positions.

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday and on March 20 and March 21.

What: Openings include jobs in concessions, grounds, tickets, retail, guest services and as a lifeguard.

Options: Applications (download one at Nashvilleshores.com) also accepted from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Nashville Shores, 4001 Bell Road, Hermitage.

Basics: Minimum age, 15; no minimum education requirements. For more information, call 615-889-7050.

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Federal funds pay summer jobs

The Tennessean. Nashville, Tenn.: Apr 30, 2009.

Abstract (Summary)

Workforce Essentials, a private, nonprofit organization that offers employment and training, has received federal stimulus money to back 100 local jobs, said Gena Ryan, a Workforce Essentials youth coordinator for summer jobs in the county.

Full Text (340 words)

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By Maria Giordano

THE TENNESSEAN

FRANKLIN -- Williamson County youth may have a leg up on summer jobs through federal funds.

Workforce Essentials, a private, nonprofit organization that offers employment and training, has received federal stimulus money to back 100 local jobs, said Gena Ryan, a Workforce Essentials youth coordinator for summer jobs in the county.

The North Tennessee Workforce Board was awarded about $1.9 million. Nine middle Tennessee counties, including Williamson, received money specifically for summer employment opportunities for local youth.

Ryan has been meeting with local employers and agencies to line up jobs for people ages 14-24. A list of positions is not available yet, but the jobs will be in nonprofit and government sectors, Ryan said.

Workforce Essentials is still looking for employers in need of summer help, she said.

"This grant will pay the salaries for these young people," Ryan said. "Everywhere I go their budgets are strained. . . . There are not a lot of jobs for youth this summer. Some of the traditional jobs students usually take, adults have already taken. It's really a win-win situation."

Many of the jobs will pay $7.25 to $10 an hour, Ryan said. To qualify, individuals must be from low-income families and face other challenges to finding employment. Some jobs may also be available to youth who do not meet the income guidelines or who are in homes where a parent has been laid off.

Jobs will begin June 1 and will last for up to eight weeks.

Workforce Essentials also requires workers to participate in job readiness workshops, which focus on customer service, work ethics, basic financial literacy and work safety. Students will receive an hourly wage for attending the workshops.

To fill out an application, go to www.workforceessentials.com.

Employers interested in summer help should contact Ryan at 615-790-3311.

Contact Maria Giordano at 615-771-5425 or mgiordano@tennessean.com.

To learn more

Fourteen- to 24-year-olds can fill out an application for a summer job at www.workforceessentials.com. Employers who want to request summer help can contact Workforce Essentials at 615-790-3311.

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ProQuest

West Side News

P.1

Unique job fair draws 750 teenagers to Oasis Center

By Joey Garrison
Staff Writer

Finding employment during an economic recession is hard enough – try being a 15-year-old with no car, résumés or work experience.

In search of that elusive summer job, more than 750 high school students packed the Oasis Center on Charlotte Pike over the weekend to take part in a unique summer job fair expected to actually deliver work for the majority who attended.

The event was fueled by $2.7 million in federal stimulus money granted in February to the Nashville Career Advancement Center.

Partnering with Meharry Medical College and the Oasis Center, the gathering gave teenagers 14- to 18-years-old the chance to access computers to build résumés, talk with experts to polish interviewing

See Jobs on Page 5

Satellites to pay stormwater fee?

By Joey Garrison
Staff Writer

After winning Metro Council approval for a new stormwater fee, Mayor Karl Dean and his administration are now taking the case to Davidson County's satellite cities.

In March, Dean survived a last-minute amendment to push through the inaugural fee, which charges customers based on the amount of impervious surface on their property.

See Water on Page 19

TICKED OFF HOTLINE: 298-5697
E-MAIL: tickedoff@gcanews.com

P.2

Jobs ...

From Page One

skills and, perhaps most importantly, sit down one-on-one with company representatives ready to hire.

Participating employers included Publix, Nashville Shores, Hands on Nashville and the Metro Public Health Department. With federal stimulus cash at its disposal, these and other businesses are to offer jobs, paid internships and volunteer opportunities to those most deserving.

"When you consider minimum wage is at $7.25 an hour, we are anticipating that $2.7 million to be completely spent with 1,000 jobs this summer," said Ellen Zinkiewicz, director of Youth and Community Services for the NCAC.

While the program covers Rutherford, Williamson and Trousdale Counties, 650 of the jobs are designated for Davidson County. The entire process, she said, has been closely monitored by both the state and federal government.

Zinkiewicz said organizers will try to find employment for everyone who applied for a job through the program. However, the goal is to target at-risk teens with economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

A critical component of the plan is to avoid filling openings vacated by laid off employees, she said. Instead, the idea is to create brand-new jobs. All paychecks will be written by NCAC, not the employer.

As the economic slump only hardens, the program arrived as a golden opportunity for some area students.

"It's really hard to find a job right now," said Kelsey Carney, a sophomore at Martin Luther King Academic Magnet School. "A lot of people have been let go because of the economy and everyone's looking for jobs so chances of getting one are slim."

Fellow classmate Alysia Rodriguez said she's tried her luck looking for employment in Mt. Juliet, figuring the brand-new Providence MarketPlace, an open-aired shopping center, would offer plenty of job opportunities. No such luck.

"I've pretty much put out an application everywhere but still have no job," Rodriguez said.

After making the rounds to the various employer booths, both girls came away more optimistic about their respective job hunts.

"It really helped inform students about other things like volunteering or other jobs that they may not have found by themselves," Carney said. "It was a good experience."

Another objective of the program is to reduce youth violence this summer by providing teens with constructive activities, according to Paul Juarez of Meharry's Nashville Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence.

Prior to the event, he said several Metro high schools hosted in-school workshops, allowing students to further hone their job search skills.

The buzz created at the workshops and through various online social networking sites allowed Saturday's job fair to exceed all expectations, he said.

"We had just a ton of volunteers work with us to get this event together," Juarez sad. "It's inspiring for all of us to participate in this."

TENNESSEE CAREER CENTERS

2009 ARRA Summer Youth Work Experience

A Letter From the Regional Youth Coordinator about Summer Work Experience 2009

We simply wanted to say thank you for your support of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Youth Summer Work Experience. Here are a few numbers that tell the story.

Number of job applications: 3,500

Total number of youth served: 730

Number of counties served: 10

Number 14 -18 years of age: 524

Individuals with disabilities: 119

Number of worksites: 158

Without gracious and willing partners, it would have been impossible to accomplish the goal of providing work readiness for such a large group across the broad region recognized by the State of Tennessee as Local Workforce Investment Area 5 (LWIA5). The counties covered by Area 5 include Hamilton, Bradley, Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, Sequatchie and Marion. With such a large footprint and population to serve, we were often challenged by communications and logistics. However, we refused to let the perfect stand in the way of the good. The "good" is what we wanted to share with you as we said thank you. Early reports indicate that our young people added value to programs and created dollar-cost-savings for a number of institutions and agencies. Below is a short list of some of the other benefits of youth summer workers:

1. Public schools were made ready for start dates next week
2. Nonprofit agencies met the programming needs of younger youth
3. Government agencies/departments were able to cover summer budgets
4. Food pantry shelves were restocked as a result of youth-led food drive campaigns
5. A homeless shelter will open soon through the support of summer youth workers
6. Leadership/mentoring opportunities were provided to thousands of younger youth
7. Young people gave back to their communities and attempted to leave good legacies
8. Local economies were stimulated by youth spending dollars at home

While not perfect, you would have been nonetheless proud of the "good" that our young people accomplished this summer. In a couple of weeks, a comprehensive report will be compiled along with a short documentary. I will provide this information to those of you who are interested (please email requests to grudolph@sedev.org). Again, thank you for the partnership support that makes our region "strong".

Sincerely,
Gary L. Rudolph
Regional Youth Coordinator
Tennessee Career Centers
(423) 785-6668

TENNESSEE CAREER CENTERS

2009 ARRA Summer Youth Work Experience was a great sucess. See a story below of our youth in action!

Worksite: Bethlehem Center

The Bethlehem Center, based in Chattanooga, Tennessee is an award-winning, faith-based agency dedicated to the transformation of lives and communities through programs and ministries that focus on Character Development, Education/Literacy, and Leadership Development. The Beth has served the Chattanooga area continuously for 89 years, and continues to be a pace-setting model for faith-based transformation and revitalization of inner-city communities. The Beth has been a beacon of hope for families throughout Chattanooga, and particularly in the South Chattanooga area.

The Sallie Crenshaw United Methodist Bethlehem Center was named after the first black female minister in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. She was appalled by the number of black children left without daycare and established the St. Elmo mission in 1947. The Alton Park center was renamed in her honor in 1983.

Through the ARRA Youth Summer Work Experience, youth participants will have an opportunity to give back to the Beth. During the worksite assignment process, participants were given the opportunity to select sites close to home in an effort to reduce the transportation burden. The majority of youth participants or their families assigned to the Beth received Beth services at one point in time. Those services may have included educational enrichment, food assistance, mentoring, recreation or counseling. The Bethlehem Center even served as Emergency Shelter during crisis periods of the 1960's, 70's and 80's.

The Bethlehem Center will serve more than 200 youth under the age of 14 during the summer months. Many of the youth served by the Beth come from low-income families and typically are not able to access childcare services on the open market. The ARRA Youth participants will allow the Beth to serve more clients with quality programs this summer, including Leadership and Literacy. The 14-24 year old youth participants provide mentoring, guidance, recreation and character development for children in their own community. The ARRA youth participants are encouraged to leave a legacy and it is believed that the mentoring, leadership and guidance will carry forth at the community level long after the summer work experience is complete.

Career Center at Chattanooga

Eastgate Towncenter

5600 Brainerd Road – Suite A5

Chattanooga, TN 37411

Antonio McMath – Youth Specialist

(423) 643-2342

Gary L. Rudolph

Phone: (423) 785-6668

Career Center at Athens

410 North Congress Parkway

Athens, TN 37303

Sandy Kirby – Youth Specialist

(423) 745-2028

Star-Telegram com

Sunday, March 22, 2009

It's not too early to start looking for that summer job

BY JESSAMY BROWN

jessamybrown@star-telegram.com

A tight job market means that teens hoping to find summer jobs in restaurants, pools and theme parks should start looking sooner than later.

"It's definitely going to be more difficult for teens this summer than in last summer," said Cheryl Abbot, regional economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics Southwest regional office in Dallas. "A lot of teens, they're very busy in the spring, they're busy with school and exams. They don't realize that employers need them as soon as school ends. If you wait, it will be too late."

Beginning Monday, young people from low-income families can tap a new initiative through Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County for summer job options.

The agency is getting money from the federal stimulus package to launch a two-year Summer Youth Employment Program.

It has been about 10 years since the agency has had federal funds to subsidize salaries. Officials estimate that the money will support about 700 workers this summer at area companies, libraries, recreation facilities and other locations.

The workers will also get skills training, said Lisa Whitkowski, future work force unit director.

Fewer jobs for kids

Job fairs in February and March at NRH{-2}O Family Water Park in North Richland Hills are drawing more teen applicants. And the events are drawing more interest from adults who are unemployed or whose spouses have lost their jobs. Seeking jobs that start at $7 an hour, applicants can wait up to 20 minutes for interviews instead of a few minutes, said Stephanie Hee, the park's marketing specialist.

The water park has another job fair that begins Monday and continues through Thursday.

Jammie Bailey, 18, earned a GED this month and is working with Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County to line up a part-time job before heading to Tyler Junior College in August.

A recent job fair at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington was "highly packed," and many people had more work experience, he said.

"I wasn't discouraged, but I felt like I had to step it up that much more," said Bailey of Fort Worth.

Nationwide, figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show a downward trend for youth employment.

The number of young people ages 16 to 19 who have jobs dropped to 5.1 million last month, the lowest since April 2000, when 7.3 million worked.

Unemployment figures for workers ages 16 to 19 are on the rise, with the rate peaking at 21.6 percent last month.

JESSAMY BROWN, 817-685-3876

Stimulus Money Puts Kids to Work

Summer jobs program uses $4 million in federal funds for jobs for more than 900 youth

By KEVIN COKELY

Updated 9:02 PM CDT, Tue, Jul 28, 2009

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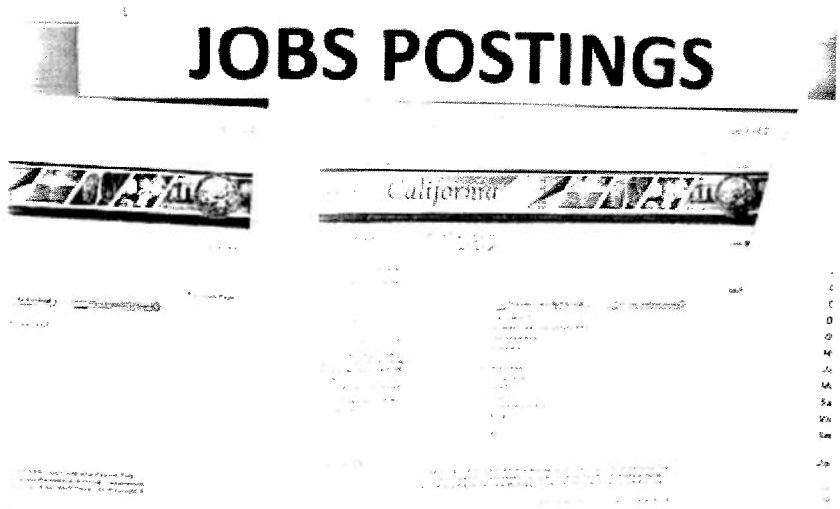

Getty Images

More than 900 teenagers and young adults in Tarrant County are working at summer jobs created by federal stimulus funds.

Mariel Perez, 17, can tell other high school seniors she spent her summer working for a criminal court judge when she returns to school Aug. 14.

"I make copies, send fax, get the mail -- you know, start with basic and go on up," she said.

The aspiring lawyer from Fort Worth got her job through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Stimulus Money Puts Kids to Work

"I don't know no one from the courthouse. I do not have no kind of connections, so that really helped me," Perez said. "Without the summer youth program, I wouldn't have the job."

Normally, there might be enough money to create just 60 youth jobs in Tarrant County all year.

But more than $4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created about 1,100 summer jobs in Tarrant County, including positions everywhere from libraries and courthouses to law firms and dental offices.

The jobs pay anywhere from the minimum wage of $7.25 per hour up to $16 per hour to youth ages 14 to 24 who meet certain income eligibility requirements.

"They're having a hard time finding jobs now, just because of the high unemployment rate", said Jorge Guerra, a youth services manager with Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. "But the main focus is to get them job skills, get the job readiness so they can know what it's like when they go out to the workforce."

Perez is one of three summer interns working for Judge Jamie Cummins, but she is the only one getting paid -- about $9 per hour.

"She's been willing to do anything and everything for us, so it's been great," Cummings said.

Perez said her summer job has helped her narrow down her career choices.

"Working here really helped me decide what I wanted to be, and I was to be an attorney, because I was very undecided on what i wanted before this," she said.
Although school starts in a few weeks, Workforce Solutions is still placing some of the more than 2,500 youth who applied for the program.
"Those who are out of school -- because we are servicing up to 24-year-olds -- they can go up to Sept. 30th. So they still have some time to make some income," Guerra said.

News 8 Austin

Your News
Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Underprivileged students work hard for a better future

7/8/2009 5:05 PM
By: Brandi Powell

Sometimes life deals out bad hands, but some Texas students are putting down the cards and picking up a new deck.

There are 40 students in the 11-week program.

The Workforce Solutions, Heart of Texas/Texas State Technical College Summer Youth Employment Program is giving a group of students a chance at a better life.

For Jesus Coronado, the program isn't just a summer gig.

"I want to have my own company in the future and hopefully in the Fall," he said. "I will register again and keep going on with the program."

For many of the students, it's a way to get back on track.

"Getting a second chance at being at school again," student Stefan Jarmon said. "I'm not learning in books, I'm learning by doing stuff hands on."

The 11-week program started June 15, and offers its 40 students training programs in either automotive servicing, auto collision repair, or energy-efficient building construction.

"It will actually give me some skills to say I have these skills, whereas before I didn't have a set skill," student Jonathan Burch said.

Participating students have an
opportunity to earn up to an $800 stipend and get all tuition, books and fees paid.

"If they wouldn't have paid for this, and if they wouldn't have given me everything that would help me be here today, then it would be hard," student Sara Castillo said.

To qualify, students have to be 18 to 24 years old, unemployed and out of school, and must be economically underprivileged.

"A lot of them are parents; a lot of them are high school drop outs who've had their GED certification," Program Director Sherry Hill said.

The students said it's not a chance they want to throw away.

"They didn't just put us into this program to play around, to horse play around. They put us in this program to learn how to fix cars and stuff," student Larry Washington said.

The Program Director says $200-thousand from the Reinvestment and Recovery Act paid for the program. She says this program is the first of its kind at the college.

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Thousands of jobs open to youth

By BRADLEY OLSON HOUSTON CHRONICLE
May 6, 2009, 5:32PM

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OTHER ACTION

The City Council also:

• Passed a measure to provide a $585,000 subsidy for 13 hyper-energy efficient homes equipped with solar power that will be built in the Third Ward. This is the second installment of a program that seeks to make such "green" homes available to low income home buyers.

•Delayed until next week a vote on nominating Anheuser Busch for a state grant program that would, pending approval by state officials, qualify the company for tax abatement if it makes a multimillion dollar investment to modernize its brewery on Houston's east side.

Thousands of jobs in local governments and municipalities will be opened up this summer to young people in the Houston region under a federal program created in the economic stimulus package.

More than 4,500 youths ages 14 to 24 will be eligible for minimum-wage jobs if they meet federal requirements relating to income or other life circumstances.

Although the specific job availabilities have not yet been spelled out in many areas, the city of Houston announced Wednesday that it will hire as many as 670 workers through the program to clean up parks, assist librarians, evangelize for conservation, document historic cemeteries and spread out in nearly all aspects of city government.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our young people to not only be employed, but to have role models that can teach them how to stay employed," said Linda Clarke, Mayor Bill White's director of education initiatives. "This will be a chance to show these kids how to keep a job."

White hearkened back to his time as a teenager to promote the program.

"One thing I learned from mowing lawns, because that's the only job I could get, was that I didn't want to mow lawns for a living," he said at Wednesday's City Council meeting. "A lot of us learn from entry-level jobs. ... This is an opportunity, not an entitlement. If we approach it this way, we will really be good mentors for these young people."

The federal stimulus package provides $1.2 billion for the 2009 Summer Jobs for Youth Program, a beefed up version of a federal municipal jobs program that has not been fully funded in recent years. About $14 million of that will go to the 13-county region that includes Houston and Harris County to provide a total of 4,500 jobs.

To qualify, workers must be between the ages of 14 and 24 and meet other federal requirements that include income limits for families.

The program will be administered by Workforce Solutions, a job training and placement non-profit organization that teams up with the Texas Workforce Commission for employment-related state programs.

"We're trying to reach out to a lot of at-risk kids, such as those who may have dropped out of school," said Sue Cruver, a spokeswoman for Workforce Solutions. "It's a great opportunity for those who haven't worked or have not continued their education to get the experience of work and what it can mean for their future. It's going to have a positive impact on those who participate."

Those who are placed in jobs will be expected to work 30 to 35 hours a week for eight to 10 weeks.

Visit this Web site to apply.

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Re: Underwear drawer
Here's an update. My son did receive some help from one of his aunts who took him shopping for clothes, makeup, heels and so on. She also helped him learn how to use it all. He seems happy now and I have been allowing him to "dress up" on occasion at home.
- SRFIRE

Re: Using the belt
There are ENDLESS numbers of ways to non-violently discipline a child; the most ignorant, lazy, and primitive way to discipline a child is using violence. Period.
- Shbumer76

Re: What do you want for Mother's Day?
Me too!!! Raising our soon to be four year old granddaughter these past two plus years has taken it's toll on my sex life. Alas, I wouldn't trade a minute of my time with her though -- she never ceases to bring a smile to my face, but more important, a smile in my heart.
- BikerBabe

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ACTION13

Good news for young job seekers

Thursday, May 07, 2009 | 7:48 PM

By Jeff Ehling

HOUSTON (KTRK) -- Summertime is right around the corner and that means thousands of job-hunters will be looking for work. This year, young people will be competing with older workers, and that could make getting a job difficult. But there is some good news for some younger job seekers.

This summer, young people looking for work have a program designed just for them that will help thousands land a job. It's all part of the stimulus package passed by Congress.

There may be fewer help wanted signs this summer, but that does not mean all the part time jobs are gone. In, fact thousands will be made available just for younger workers, ages 14 to 24. The city of Houston will fill several hundred positions.

"We are looking to try to put about 340 students on this year," said Joe Turner with the Houston Parks Department. "We have got quite a few different kinds of jobs. We have some in our green space park that will work as park maintenance aids."

Story continues below

Advertisement

Studies show people who eat more whole grain

The jobs program is federally funded and it is that money that is giving the city of Houston the ability to make those hires.

"They will be making $2,300," said Linda Clarke with the city of Houston. "They will

work 30 to 35 hours a week for 8 to 10 weeks."

Across our area, young people aged 14 to 24 will be able to apply for more than 4,000 part-time jobs, but there is some important financial criteria they must meet before they before they can start working.

To get one of the jobs, a young person living alone cannot earn more than $10,830. If they live in a family of four, family income cannot be more than $22,500 to qualify. The jobs only last for the summer, but are designed to give young workers life-long skills.

"The idea is to try to reach out to outreach youth who might not understand what a good job might be," said Sue Cruver with Workforce Solutions. "It is an entry level job to get experience and they will get training."

The exact jobs are still being looked at, but the city of Houston will use the program to hire people to clean parks and staff city swimming pools.

"It's not just a summer jobs program for these kids," said Clarke. "We will have career fairs, teach them how to write resumes and put them with roll models, so that we spend time not just telling them how to get a job, but how to keep a job."

The jobs are available through Workforce Solutions and they have a special web site set up for those looking for these jobs. Check out the abc13 consumer blog for more.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

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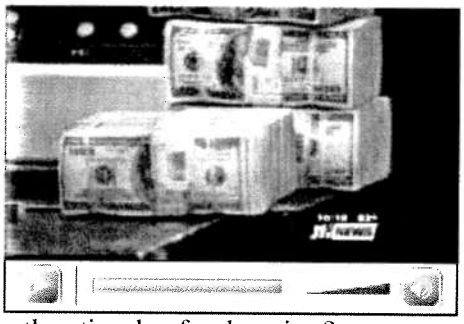
Tracking economic recovery: Where are the stimulus funds going?

11:38 PM CDT on Monday, July 20, 2009

By Alex Sanz / 11 News

HOUSTON – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – the stimulus – promised to create jobs, turn around the nation's economy and get America out of its worst economic slump since the Great Depression.

Video: Economic Recovery



Tracking economic recovery: Where are the stimulus funds going?
July 20, 2009
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It's been five months since Congress signed off on what many touted as a modern-day New Deal.

Critics of the stimulus, including Representative Kevin Brady, (R) The Woodlands, said the government overpromised and under-delivered.

"We're talking about, literally, billions and billions of dollars," he said. "People want to know where it is going. And what jobs it's supposed to create. And right now, all we've got to rely on are a bunch of press releases. That's what's making people angry."

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, (D) Houston, supported the nearly trillion-dollar stimulus. In retrospect, she said, [Congress] should have focused more on the rights of individual people.

"I can understand the frustration," she said. "Texas received $18 billion. And [the] money is coming in spurts."

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11 News went in search of the projects that promised to create jobs and keep mothers and fathers out of unemployment lines. Finding out what the money's been used for – and who's reaped its benefits – took hours of digging. Members of Congress weren't even sure.

"You would think that five months after Congress passed the stimulus bill over some of our objections they'd be able to track it much better than we are today," said Brady.

The biggest portion of stimulus money was supposed to go to so-called "shovel-ready" projects. Texas was given about $2.6 billion for transportation projects. About half went to build roads. TxDOT expects the first wave of stimulus dollars will create 300-plus jobs in Harris and surrounding counties – but that's after the work starts.

"Things are moving and they're moving at a much swifter pace than they would typically be moving," said Raquelle Lewis of TxDOT. "It's just going to take us a little bit of time to get from an authorized bill to actual spending and actually see those dollars at work."

Increasingly, agencies are waiting for the cash to flow. The transit agency METRO was awarded $89 million – money for 19 new rail cars, money to convert HOV lanes into toll lanes and money for more jobs. It's still waiting for it.

The Port of Houston was given $98.3 million to dredge the Houston Ship Channel. Work on that should begin this fall.

The City of Houston applied for funds to create upward of 12,000 jobs. One project alone would create more than 4,000 jobs. It, like METRO, is waiting for the money.

11 News found one group that had been put to work. Leon Morris, 16, is one of more than 3,000 young adults put to work through a summer jobs program. The Houston-Galveston Area Council was given more than $70 million for programs like this one. This summer, Leon is getting paid $9.50 an hour to work four days a week at Memorial Park.

"I'd probably be home doing something else, getting in trouble or something," he said.

"The first paycheck everybody was going to have a good time but most of them are holding on to it," said Dee Powell of Houston Parks & Recreation. "[They're] buying school supplies and clothes for the next year. I think it's allowing them to buy things that maybe their family couldn't afford."

It's an encouraging sign. But questions over how stimulus money is being spent linger. It's already been the subject of contentious hearings on Capitol Hill.

"What happens is there's a bus stop," said Jackson Lee. "And the bus stop is in Austin. And the bus stop is at the

agencies. And sometimes these agencies are overwhelmed."

"We hear all these wild claims about all the projects that are being funded and all hundreds of thousands of new jobs but the truth is that's not happened to date," said Brady. "Right now it's really become, at this point, sort of a slush fund for the states."

More stimulus money is on its way to Houston – this fall, in 2010 and 2011.

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Local News

Stimulus money to help with youth summer jobs program

By Walt Nett | A-J CITY EDITOR
Wednesday, April 01, 2009
Story last updated at 4/1/2009 - 1.37 am

An annual summer jobs program for South Plains youth will be a lot bigger this year because of an infusion of $1 million in economic stimulus money, officials announced Tuesday.

The state job placement service usually has funds to find work for about 100 youths between the ages of 16 and 21.

Ben Montecillo, a spokesman for the agency, said the extra money should enable the agency to place as many as 500 youths in eight-week summer jobs.

The money also will allow the agency to broaden the age range served, so that WorkForce Solutions will be able to place applicants between the ages of 14 and 24, he said.

The program normally is available to youth from low-income families or young people who are overcoming barriers to employment.

With the increased financial support, Montecillo said, the agency can also place some young people from middle-to-high income families.

For more information about applying for the summer jobs for youth program, call Darryl Victor or Jose Leal at 765-5038.

To comment on this story:

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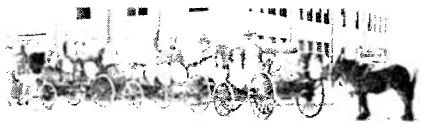

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HOMELAND

Obama gets rapturous reception from public in sub-Saharan Africa. A3

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LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

NDAY, JULY 13, 2009

Wilkerson search hits five-year mark

Jennifer Lynn Wilkerson

- Disappeared
- Age at time of disappearance:
- Last seen
- Physical description

SEE MISSING PAGE A

Volunteers earn family mentoring

Lubbock High junior Tyquanesha Brantley, left, and Estacado High senior Clarissa Willard look at a document to determine where to file it at the city of Lubbock Purchasing Department in City Hall on Thursday. A federally funded youth employment program in the South Plains this summer ran out of people before it ran out of jobs to be filled.

Stimulating work

Stimulus funds help disadvantaged area youths get summer jobs

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The Roanoke Times

Stimulus helps students step into work force

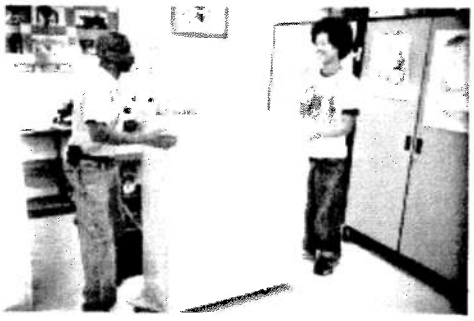
About 120 young workers are earning a tax-free paycheck through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

August 5, 2009

By Anna L. Mallory
381-8627

Photos by Justin Cook | The Roanoke Times

Radford High School rising juniors Katelynn Cowan and D.J. Hendricks have a little fun on that job at McHarg Elementary School. "It's OK. They're allowed to have fun," their supervisor, Josh Green, says about their occasional distractions.



Josh Green, the building supervisor at McHarg Elementary School, and David Redding, a rising junior at Radford High School, move a file cabinet in the school. For the past few weeks, Green has supervised the students whose summer jobs are funded by the government's Summer Youth Employment Program stimulus package. "This is good for these kids. A lot of them have never had a job before," Green says.

RADFORD -- The federal government helped Katelynn Cowan pay a few household bills this summer with the money she received to ready McHarg Elementary School for the coming school year.

But first, of course, the 17-year-old had to buy a new cellphone and get a haircut. She's heading into her junior year at Christiansburg High School and has to look good, too.

Katelynn and three of her schoolmates spent the summer tidying up the elementary school.

They're among the group of about 120 14- to 24-year-olds from across the New River Valley who took summer jobs funded by the Summer Youth Employment Program stimulus package.

Locally, the students are supervised by Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, which received a $295,000 federal grant through the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board.

Across Virginia, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act poured about $11 million into work-force boards this summer. The students working earned $7.25 an hour, tax free, in the hopes that they'll get a life experience while spending their money.

Goodwill runs work-force programs for youths annually. Without the stimulus boost, it would have hired only about 84, said Linda Matthews, vice president for work-force development. Instead, the extra federal money helped put 120 young workers into schools, government offices and private industry, Matthews said.

"A lot of employers said they couldn't work with us," she said. "With the economy, they said they needed to give the employees they had the hours."

But school systems that cut back on custodial staff this summer welcomed the students. About 25 percent of the 120 youths are in schools in Radford, Floyd County and Pulaski County, Matthews said.

"They really get to see the other side of the school, the job that it takes to get the schools ready," she said.

At McHarg, where Principal Rob Graham had to reorganize his school setup because third-graders will attend the new Belle Heth Elementary School, students such as Katelynn were invaluable. They helped teachers clear out classrooms, rearrange furniture and paint.

Like most first jobs, it's taken some adjustment.

"It's a job. Some things are better than others," said D.J. Hendricks, a rising junior at Radford High School. D.J. and her brother, Alexander, both have worked at McHarg since the second week of June.

"They're just learning what it's like to work," said Josh Green, building supervisor at the elementary school.

He's been their boss for the past eight weeks, and he said he's watched the students grow into workers.

"They probably won't have an easier job than this," he joked.

Green said he teaches them their daily duties, but he also wants them to follow their own direction this late in the summer.

Sometimes it works. When they're distracted -- with cellphones or visitors -- it doesn't.

"It's OK. They're allowed to have fun," Green said.

Lois Davis, a case worker in New River Community College's Workforce Development program, said the students' experience has been about more than making money and doing a job. It's also teaching them "soft skills" -- how to work together, get to work on time, show proper hygiene.

Goodwill Industries subcontracted with the college and Davis co-taught a weeklong class introducing students to the work-force culture.

"This is good for these kids. A lot of them have never had a job before," Green said.

David Redding, a rising junior at Radford, said he's already seen where he might struggle in the real world.

"I honestly didn't know we needed to be here at 7," he told Green. He showed up Monday closer to 9 a.m.

"I have learned to try to be on time," David said.

David and his co-workers have also learned that while they might not like the work, the paycheck makes it worthwhile.

Each of the summertime custodians said they have started to apply for other jobs at grocery stores, fast-food chains and restaurants to keep up their income.

Although this summer's pay has been tax free and they understand that others aren't likely to be the same, they're ready for the work.

"I like money a lot," David said.

Kitsap Sun

Kitsap Youths Benefit From Summer Jobs, Courtesy of Stimulus Money

By Keeley Smith (Contact)
Friday, August 14, 2009

Johnny Le, co-owner of Apollo Salon and Spa in Poulsbo, works Myla Gonzalez at the salon last week. Gonzalez and 132 other youth spent the summer working at local businesses through a program organized by the Olympic Educational Services District and paid for with stimulus funds. Students gained real-world experience in fields they want to pursue as careers. (AARON F. GOULD | KITSAP SUN)

Myla Gonzalez, a member of the Olympic Educational Services District's Summer Youth Employment Program, books a customer at Apollo Salon and Spa. She hopes to become a massage therapist, and working at the salon gives her work experience in a related field. (AARON F. GOULD | KITSAP SUN)

Myla Gonzalez, a member of the Olympic Educational Services District's Summer Youth Employment Program, cleans a tanning bed as part of her duties at Apollo Salon and Spa. Gonzalez, along with 132 other low-income youth, is gaining real-world experience through a stimulus grant. (AARON F. GOULD | KITSAP SUN)

When Naomi Torrison, 18, dropped out of high school to take care of her niece, she didn't want to think about the future.

"I thought there was no hope," she said. "I was waiting for things to happen, afraid of growing up."

Then Torrison discovered the Summer Youth Employment Program. She's spent the last few months learning video editing — and got paid for it.

Torrison was one of 133 youth who worked in a program paid for by federal stimulus funds. Her minimum-wage pay came through a grant to Kitsap County's Summer Employment Youth Program (SYEP).

Along with learning video editing, she earned her GED and started volunteering with master control at KOMO TV in Seattle.

Today a future in television production looks like a real possibility.

"Now it's like, 'Wow, things are happening in my life,'" Torrison said. "There are so many opportunities out there."

The Bremerton-based Olympic Educational Services District (OESD) oversaw the program, which also involved participants in Clallam and Jefferson counties. They hope to find a way to continue the program next summer. The stimulus money was one-time funding.

"For a lot of them, it's their first job," SYEP coordinator Crystal Hill said. "It's an opportunity to earn money and job skills when they otherwise would have no other chance," she said.

Applicants had to be between the ages of 16 and 24 and meet low-income requirements set by the government. More than 315 applied.

The program matched young adults with employers that suited interests listed in their applications. The youth worked 32 hours a week for minimum wage at workplaces as diverse as salons and animal shelters. The program started July 6 and ended Friday.

"The benefits were wonderful," said Chris Conway-Newton, 17, who also worked in video production. The crew of video production workers reported to North Kitsap High every day, where they worked on a documentary about the program.

Conway-Newton, an Olympic High student, said workers were provided weekly gas and food vouchers. They attended weekly group seminars that focused on job and life skills, from resume-building and CPR.

"Instead of paying for classes ... we were getting paid to learn," Conway-Newton said.

Workers also received $100 to spend on professional gear, including office attire.

Myla Gonzalez, 17, bought clothes appropriate to work at Poulsbo's Apollo Salon. She wants to become a massage therapist. Her summer job required her to answer phones, clean tanning beds, and counsel difficult clients.

"I learned how to answer phone calls, work with different personalities," Gonzalez said. "The customer's always right."

Hill organized the program as an employee of OESD. The stimulus money came in response to a grant written by the district. She and the YSAs hired by the SYEP had six weeks to advertise the program. They sent out fliers to school districts, foster care agencies, news releases, and advertisements at local coffee shops like Coffee Oasis.

Employers benefitted from the extra work at no cost, especially nonprofits such as the Red Cross and county services, like Kitsap County Parks and Recreation. Red Cross workers trained fellow participants at the weekly seminars, and Parks and Recreation employees helped clean area parks.

"This is constructive — a program like this can be helpful to a local economy" Jay Montgomery, owner of Little Bugga Creative Inc., a video production company based in Bremerton. "They're employing kids, and the kids will spend cash in the community while learning."

"These are all really amazing kids, really creative," Youth Service Assistant Tina Pheabus said. "It's helped some of them get permanent jobs."

Pheabus said one of the youths who worked for the summer at Relling Small Animal Shelter in Bremerton was hired full time. Conway-Newton, working for the video production group, was asked to photograph part time for the Red Cross.

Those with the program described teenage mothers discovering a love of cosmetology, of young adults finding a confidence and motivation they never knew they had.

Hill said she hoped there would be funding for the program again next year.

"Society gives a lot of these kids a hard rap," She said. "They might have a legal history, but they have gifts. We were all young once. Somebody needs to give them a chance."

Lynchburg News and Advance

Youth employment program offers lasting experience through temporary jobs

BY NOLAN CONNELLY
Published: August 15, 2009

The Summer Youth Employment Program ended Friday with a celebration picnic at Central Virginia Community College.

More than 100 youths were provided with work experience and real-life wages through the program, a joint effort between the Family Alliance and CVCC.

Forty of the participants, along with some of their employers, attended the picnic, which was catered by Dickie's Barbeque Pit.

At the end of the competition ceremony, the youths received certificates of completion and their last paychecks through the program, which was funded through federal stimulus funds.

A total of 91 youths from Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell County and Lynchburg successfully completed the program. About 10 percent of them will continue their jobs as regular employees at their work sites, said CEO Tom Prest, of Family Alliance,

Ebonie Gray, 23, of Lynchburg, was happy to hear she was being hired at her worksite, Providence Playhouse, a child-care center. "It's hard trying to find a job," said Gray.

Timothy Couch, 17, of Lynchburg, was also excited that he'd be able to continue working at TJ Maxx as a stocker. He plans to work part-time while attending E.C. Glass High School.

Prest said that although some youths won't be able to continue working, a lot of them would be able to use the experience and references from the jobs in the future.

"We really are thrilled with how it went," said Prest. He added he was particularly proud of the positive impact made "on some of the most at-risk youth in our community."

Raymond Cousins, youth program coordinator of the Virginia Community College System in Richmond, said, "This was the first stand-alone program of this magnitude in 10 years."

Prest remarked that "this is the best use of federal funding I've seen in quite awhile. Next summer we're hoping that this program will be re-funded."

Danny Inge, executive director of the Region 2000 Workforce Investment Board, said, "All the Workforce Investment Boards … see the value of utilizing this. The only way you learn how to work is to work."

Prest said the Family Alliance's focus would now turn towards the out-of-school youth with programs helping them find jobs and becoming prepared to enter the work force.

If the program does get funded again, Mat Marshall, chairman of the Workforce Investment Board, is ready for that.

"We're keeping our notes for next year," he said.

Martinsville Bulletin - Martinsville, VA, USA

100 youth explore careers through chamber program

Monday, July 20, 2009

By PAUL COLLINS - Bulletin Staff Writer

One hundred young people are learning job skills and earning money this summer in the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's new Youth Work Program.

One hundred area youth are learning about the working world this summer through the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's Youth Work Program. Above, Brandon Gauldin (left) holds a bag of pigment as Justin Keatts scans a barcode at Drake Extrusion Inc. (Bulletin photos)

More Photos

The 14- to 18-year-olds are working at 36 work sites through the $257,000 program, funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, according to Amanda Witt, chamber president, and information from the chamber.

During the first week of the eight-week program, youths learned "soft skills," such as how to dress and how to conduct themselves in the workplace, as well as money-management skills, Witt said.

The first week of training was followed by six weeks of work. In the final week, the youths will learn resume writing, interview skills and other ways to apply what they learned in the program to real life, as well as more instruction in money management, Witt said.

The workplaces include businesses and industries, governmental agencies, community agencies and associations, recreational centers, the chamber of commerce and more.

On Thursday, John Parkinson, president and CEO of Drake Extrusion Inc. in Ridgeway, said he was pleased with the four young people placed at Drake through the program. He said they have positive attitudes, are eager to listen and learn, and when they finish a task, they ask what else they can do to help.

Drake Extrusion makes polypropylene fibers for automotive textiles, floor coverings, home furnishings, food and water filtration, and other uses.

Felicia Motley, 17, a rising senior at Martinsville High School, is doing secretarial work at Drake. She said she is taking part in the program because she wanted to get in the work force in "something I enjoyed doing" — in an office and around people.

At the company, she has improved or learned new skills, such as computer keyboarding and graphing programs, operating fax machines, filing, answering phones and doing payroll, which has helped her math skills. "I learned a lot," she said.

The work experience also has helped her mature, Motley said. "I'm really shy," she said, and as a result of working with "energetic, fun" employees, "I (have) opened up."

Her mother and stepfather are Tracy and Jimmy Bruce of Martinsville, and her father is Felice Martin of Detroit, Mich.

Also at Drake Extrusion, Justin Keatts, 16, of Axton, a rising senior at Magna Vista High School, said he works in shipping and inventory, and Brandon Gauldin, 15, of Ridgeway, a rising 10th-grader who is home-schooled, said he works in shipping and quality control.

Keatts said he applied for the program "to learn responsibility and gain work experience." He has learned to get along with people and listen to people.

"If you don't, you'll do something wrong," he said. He also has learned that "to make money (you've) got to work for it, and work is not always as easy as it seems."

Gauldin said he has learned when working "there's a time to joke around with people and a time to be serious" and get the job done. "You've really got to pay attention," listening to directions, he said.

He believes the work experience "is really going to let me know what to expect, how the work force really is."

Keatts is the son of Randy Keatts of Axton and Valerie Laufenberg of Ridgeway. Gauldin is the son of Fran Gauldin of Bassett and Bobby Marler of Ridgeway.

Jevon Smith, 18, who graduated from Magna Vista High School this year, said he applied for the program to get a summer job and earn money to save toward a car and an apartment and pay for related expenses. He also wanted to learn more job skills and meet new people.

His duties at Drake Extrusion include sorting materials, testing products and working on an assembly line. He said he has learned, among other things, "to show respect, number one"; how to organize and plan a task before doing it; and how to operate machinery. Smith is the son of Connie Napper of Martinsville.

Jason Muehleck, vice president of AmeriStaff, a staffing company, said the two youths in the program working there "came polished" after receiving initial training through the chamber in such things as work ethics, etiquette and dress.

He said the youths are "outstanding. (We) couldn't have asked for better kids." He said they work hard, ask questions, are eager to learn and are always willing to help.

He said the two youths, Caitlin Westmoreland and Cierra Alderman, have focused on a direct mailing project but have been exposed to many other aspects of the business, including answering phones, operating computers (such as data entry), operating other office equipment and meeting customers.

Westmoreland, 17, a recent graduate of Magna Vista High School, said, "I definitely learn something new every day" on the job. She plans to go to Patrick Henry Community College and hopes to major in psychology, then hopes to transfer to a four-year college and major in psychology. She is the daughter of Angela Westmoreland of Henry County and the late Lowell Westmoreland.

Witt said that several employers in the program have expressed interest in hiring students who worked for them after the program is over, possibly during the summer or part time when they return to school. One of them is Chris Mohr, CEO and chairman of the board at AmeriStaff, who said he would like to employ both of the youths for the rest of the summer because they are doing such good jobs, Witt said.

Witt said that more than 400 youths 14 to 18 years old and still in school at the time applied for the program. Two hundred of them were interviewed, and 100 were placed. Selection criteria included "income, age and barrier." Barrier, for example, could be someone with no work experience and competing with an experienced worker, or someone who is a teen parent, in a foster home or has a disability.

Those selected are being paid $7.25 an hour for up to 30 hours a week for eight weeks, or a maximum of more than $1,700.

"It's a great program for youth," Muehleck said of the Youth Work Program.

Witt also said that she has heard much positive feedback from participating work sites and chamber officials.

Peninsula-wide program put 85 teens to work this summer

By Diane Urbani de la Paz
Peninsula Daily News
Last modified: August 16. 2009 8:47PM

This summer could've been a major bummer for the teenage job hunter.

Deep recession. Massive layoffs across the country. Everywhere you look, lots more applicants than openings.

But thanks to people such as Cheryl Stough of Sequim, Carl Chastain of Forks and Wes Livingston of Port Ludlow, it turned into a happy ending for 85 young workers on the North Olympic Peninsula.

The Summer Youth Employment Program provided six weeks of work for minimum wage for youths age 16 to 24 with $313,000 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the federal stimulus package.

For employers, it was "truly fantastic," Chastain said Friday during the program finale at the Peninsula College Longhouse.

The program paid for 72 young workers in Clallam County and 13 in Jefferson County to toil for $8.55 an hour in local workplaces.

Employer pleased

Chastain, executive director of the Pacific Salmon Coalition, was among the employers who welcomed workers from the program.

He taught them the nuts and bolts of salmon habitat restoration across the West End: sandbagging, trail clearing and trash pickup -- dirty jobs that people like Brett Crump, 16, didn't shrink from doing.

And the federally funded program, Chastain added, enabled his strapped nonprofit organization to hire extra workers he couldn't have otherwise afforded.

It was a good deal for him and for the teens, Forks High School students who wanted the work experience and the mentorship, he said. And it helped the coalition "accomplish more with the limited resources we all seem to have these days."

An education

Whitley Barnes, an 18-year-old from Joyce, said she got a well-rounded education in her month-and-a-half stint at the YMCA's Port Angeles summer camp.

She organized camp activities, from sports to skits to knitting, with kids age 5 to 11. She developed a mentor in her boss, Susie Hancock, and learned much from her fellow workers.

"Whitley is phenomenal," said Stough, coordinator of the youth employment program in Clallam County.

Barnes graduated from Crescent High School in June with a 4.0 grade-point average and plans to study political science at Washington State University, "and she only wants to become a lawyer, and then a judge," Stough added.

This summer, Barnes said, she realized her own ability to be a role model.

"I got to be the older kid," she said, demonstrating how to have fun while working hard.

The program's 36-hour work week included workshops on resume writing and other job readiness skills for all the young workers.

In those workshops, Barnes said, she met women her own age who already have children and who spent their summer wages on food and rent. And she watched other workers who, after starting out shy and uncertain at the beginning of summer, bloomed.

Tony Cortani, owner of Tim's Custom Cabinets in Sequim, learned something about teenagers this summer.

Joshua Kober, 19, worked with him, preparing cabinets for finishing and installation -- and dispelling Cortani's doubts about the employment program.

"At first I had a lot of reservations. I thought I was going to get kids who would have no interest and who would waste my time," Cortani said.

'Good work ethic'

"I found out there are kids out there who have a good work ethic and want to apply themselves."

"Thank you," Kober responded.

Brittany Willert, a 17-year-old from Marrowstone Island, has been rising at 4 a.m. four mornings a week to work her 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. shift at the Resort at Port Ludlow.

With Wes Livingston training and supervising, she mowed around the model homes, cut weeds on the golf course, pruned, fertilized -- and learned all about golf terms and players' needs.

Livingston and the rest of the landscaping crew were "mostly older gentlemen; they were like

the dads I never had," Willert said. "They were really cool with me asking questions."

And Willert, who had planned to become a dental hygienist, called her landscaping job a "powerful eye-opener" to the benefits of working outdoors.

"I was at work, but it was like a getaway because it's beautiful and the people are so, so nice," she said.

Like Barnes, Willert was inspired by other teens in the summer work program.

"The kids have been through some pretty rough times. They're all just wanting to work," she said.

Both counties

Clallam County, because it has both a higher proportion of economically disadvantaged youth and more severe unemployment, received far more -- $259,000 -- for its summer-job program than Jefferson County, which got just $54,000.

In both counties the employers made the program possible, said Stough, who matched organizations such as the salmon coalition, Tim's Custom Cabinets and the YMCA with young people particularly interested in those lines of work.

In Jefferson County, coordinator Anne Burns matched workers with 13 businesses ranging from Seams to Last, a children's clothing shop in Port Townsend, the Chimacum Veterinary Hospital and The Village Baker in Port Townsend.

There's no telling, the coordinators said, whether more federal money will be available in 2010.

The young people in this summer's program, whatever happens, believe they will hold onto its benefits.

"We built so many strong ties," Barnes said of her boss, the program coordinators and her fellow workers.

The golf-course landscaping team, Willert added, "taught me about golf, and about life."

Stephanie McDonald is looking for business owners who could use some help and for young people who could use an open door.

McDonald is youth services coordinator of Pathways to Success, a job training and career-guidance program serving Clallam and Jefferson counties.

At the finale of the Summer Youth Employment Program on Friday at Peninsula College, she

reminded attendees that Pathways is an additional year-round service, ready to match people age 16 to 21 with work sites.

There's still room for 15 to 20 youths in this year's program, McDonald said.

"We're always looking for employers to provide meaningful work experiences," also known as WEXes.

Pathways, after finding a good match, pays the worker for up to 160 hours of labor. So the program can help offset training costs, McDonald said.

After the 160 hours, the employer may choose to hire the trained worker or not. And if the youth doesn't meet the employer's expectations at any point, the WEX ends.

Either way, the worker gains real-world experience, McDonald said, as well as guidance from the Pathways counselors on how to conduct an efficient job search, write a resume and finish or continue schooling.

Pathways' mission is to provide local youth with a chance to build their futures, she said.

"It is also our goal to provide committed, responsible and productive workers" for local firms.

Pathways is funded by the federal Workforce Investment Act, and youth usually must meet low-income guidelines, but McDonald said she and the staff consider other factors on a case-by-case basis.

She urged Clallam and Jefferson youth, as well as employers, to learn more by contacting her in Pathways' Port Angeles office at 228 W. First St., on the top floor of the Armory Square building. McDonald can also be reached at 360-565-2001 and smcdonald@esd.wa.gov.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

May 15, 2009 in City

Stimulus money will fund jobs for youth

Organizers seeking more employers

Shawn Vestal / Staff writer

More information

Businesses or prospective young workers interested in participating in the program can get more information by calling (509) 532-3113 or going online to **www.nextgenzone.org**.

Some of the first dollars from the massive federal stimulus package should start showing up in Spokane soon, with $1.5 million targeted toward providing summer jobs and training for low-income teens and young adults.

The money should put 400 young people to work at mostly minimum-wage jobs through September, as well as paying for staffers to run the program, officials said Thursday at a press conference. The stimulus money will pay the wages, but organizers are looking for businesses to take on and train the workers.

"What we need is help from the business leaders in the community," said John Serben, chairman of the youth council for the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council.

About 70 work sites are already signed up, including positions within governments and nonprofit organizations, but more are needed, organizers said. The money was awarded to the Workforce Development Council, and the program will be operated by the Spokane Workplace Consortium and the Next Generation Zone, a youth employment program that includes participation from several agencies and organizations.

Cami Hanson, chief operating officer for Career Path Services, said the program is targeted at low-income residents of Spokane County, ages 16 to 24, for internships between now and September. Participants will be given a variety of job-skills training, in addition to the work experience.

"Its specific intent is to get youth and young adults work experience, put a paycheck in their pockets, and then they'll spend that money," Hanson said.

Program organizers also hope it might lead to some full-time jobs.

Kristine Jangula, a 20-year-old homeless woman who was at the Next Generation Zone offices Thursday, would like to get some of the help the program is offering. She's tried without success to land a steady job in recent years, and said that her options for office work – her preference – are slim. "It's hard out there," she said.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

May 17, 2009

Competition tough for summer jobs

Shawn Vestal / The Spokesman-Review

Kristine Jangula, 20, was at the Worksource building on Thursday, May 14, in the Next Generation Zone youth employment office to get some help finding a job.

Author Barbara Pachter outlined these↵Job-search tips 1. Don't forget to send thank-you.↵↵"don'ts" for job hunters of all ages: 2. Don't↵notes. It's one way to set yourself apart from other applicants. dress inappropriately. Employers see a lot of young people dressed too casually. 3. Don't have typos in your résumé or cover letters. Have someone proofread.↵ 4. Don't be nonchalant about the position. Be enthusiastic,↵your documents. 5. Don't be unprepared for the↵even if the job isn't your first choice. questions. Anticipate the tough questions you may be asked during an interview. 6. Don't forget to use networking. Let people know that you are looking for.↵ 7. Don't give up. The job market is tough, but there are jobs out there.↵work.

For many teens, a summer job means something temporary to pick up pocket money.

For others who are older or who have been thrust into adult responsibilities, their job hunt is more serious.

Both types of young people, though, are looking at a tough job market this summer. As unemployment in all age groups rises, more people are seeking positions that ordinarily go to young, inexperienced workers.

"There's more competition for these jobs, so you really need to decide what you want to do this summer and start early," said Doug Tweedy, regional economist for the Washington Employment Security Department.

Donohvan Dunigan, 17, was at the Next Generation Zone, the youth employment center at Spokane's WorkSource office, last week looking for work and trying to wrap up his GED. Dunigan is looking for a full-time job, not just summer work at a theme park, to support him and his pregnant girlfriend.

But he's like other teen job hunters in many respects: He doesn't have much experience, he's not sure what he wants to do, and the working world sometimes seems alien and unfair.

He was surprised, for example, to discover that a fast-food restaurant where he worked would judge employees based on how they dressed and their demeanor. Now, he says, he's looking for "basically anything I can get." "I need to make it where we have a steady job and a check in our pockets," he said.

Tweedy said the Spokane economy usually adds an estimated 1,200 summer jobs for teens and young people, though those estimates can overlap with other typical teenage jobs during the rest of the year. He said that for teens ages 14 to 18, the most common jobs are in the amusement/recreation, restaurant, retail and maintenance industries.

Young adults older than 18 most commonly find jobs in manufacturing and construction, as well as a wide range of fill-in jobs across the economy, to help businesses deal with vacations.

Employment among young people shrank slightly over the past decade, although it's moving upward again. That's part of a typical pattern, Tweedy said: When families are generally doing better, fewer teens look for work, and vice-versa.

Jobs for teens and young adults are part of the Obama administration's stimulus package, with money directed toward giving summer jobs to low-income million for the.people ages 16 to 24. The Spokane area has received $1.5 project, and will employ 400 young people this summer. More information about that program is available at nextgenzone.org.

Cami Hanson, chief operating officer for Career Path Services, which operates the youth employment program, said organizers hope that some young people can find long-term work through the program. She also emphasized that teenagers who don't qualify for that program can still get a lot of help through the Next Generation Zone, including job-hunting skills, GED completion and other resources.

"There's a lot more kids and young adults (than 400) who are going to be looking for jobs," she said.

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CNNMoney.com

$1.2 billion for summer jobs

Stimulus funds provide job training for disadvantaged young adults. Programs intended to build skills, but some states may find it tough to place participants.

By Tami Luhby, CNNMoney.com senior writer
May 27, 2009: 12:27 PM ET

Young adults help improve Indiana's parks thanks to federal stimulus funds.

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- With teen summer employment expected to hit its lowest level since 1948, the federal government is pumping $1.2 billion in stimulus money into job training programs for youth.

The funds are aimed at providing disadvantaged 14-to-24-year-old youth with job training skills and schooling to better prepare them to continue their education or enter the workforce.

States are now implementing summer work programs to put their funding to use. Some are devising brand new efforts to train young adults, while others are expanding existing initiatives. The workers, who must be low income and meet certain at-risk criteria such as being a dropout or disabled, will be paid at least minimum wage.

The youth training program is getting a considerable portion of the $4 billion in stimulus funds set aside for job training. The rest of the funds are going to help unemployed adults get back to work.

"We also have to invest in our young people to make sure they gain work experiences for the future," said a senior Department of Labor official. "Hopefully it can put them on the path to working or returning to school better prepared."

Harder for youth to land jobs

The stimulus funds reverse a long decline in federal support for such endeavors. In fiscal year 2009, the government set aside $1 billion for youth workforce funding, down from $1.5 billion eight years earlier. Meanwhile, summer youth employment rates have been falling for much of the decade as 20-somethings and retirees vie for jobs that typically went to teens.

"Summer employment has been an access point for youth to learn basic workforce skills," said Jonathan Larsen, policy associate with the National Youth Employment Coalition. "These skills are very important to employers."

Youth training programs are a key element in assisting disadvantaged young adults secure and maintain employment, which often translates into a better paycheck throughout their lives, said Joe McLaughlin, senior research associate at the Northeastern Center for Labor Market Studies. Such initiatives also encourage many youth to continue their education.

Only 51.4% of the high school dropouts were in the labor force in 2006, compared to 76.4% of recent graduates, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In Spokane, Wash., for instance, more 18-to 24-year-olds are coming to local career centers saying they cannot find jobs, said Dawn Karber, youth program and development manager for the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council. And more high schoolers are having trouble finding part-time work.

"For kids with barriers, finding employment is already difficult," she said. "In this economic environment, it's increasingly hard."

The recession, however, could make it tough to find positions for the young adults. Even though the feds are providing the funds, companies, governments and nonprofits may be reluctant to participate. "They may have a hard time finding supervisors to manage the summer jobs programs," McLaughlin said.

Indiana's 21st Century Conservation Corps

Harkening back to the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression, Indiana is hiring 2,000 young adults to form the Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps. The state launched the initiative specifically for the $21 million in youth stimulus funds it is receiving.

Participants, who will earn $8.50 an hour for 16 weeks, will build trails, restore Department of Natural Resources properties and rehabilitate historic buildings at recreation areas, state forests and parks.

If successful, the effort will continue next summer with the remaining funds.

The Hoosier State created the conservation program because officials wanted to use the federal funds to make tangible improvements. The corps are expected to build up to 110 miles of new trails, rehabilitate more than 1,100 miles of existing trails and restore 2,600 acres of natural habitats and 40 structures.

"The governor wanted to leave a lasting legacy, something that will outlive the stimulus dollars," said Marc Lotter, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Combining school with work

In Spokane, which is receiving $1.8 million, participants will get time on the job, as well as in the classroom. Those without high school diplomas will study for their GEDs, while working part-time. Those who finished school will split their summer on the job and in an education program, such as vocational training at a community college.

In addition, the participants will learn workplace ethics, social skills, resume writing and interviewing techniques.

More than 400 young adults will be placed at more than 70 employers and will earn $8.55 an hour. For instance, the city is creating a certified nursing assistant program, where young adults will earn credentials, while assisting in the care of patients. Others will be placed at Goodwill Industries, where they will recycle donated computers.

"We're trying to put kids into good training positions so that when the leave, they will be competitive in the workforce," said Karber.

Finding future careers

Summer jobs can help young adults figure out what careers are right for them, said Jeanne Mullgrav, commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development in New York City.

The city will spend $18.5 million of its $29 million allotment to provide paid summer jobs to 13,378 young adults for seven weeks, allowing it to serve a total of 51,000 youth this summer. The remaining funds will support paid year-round internships and training.

Some assigned to camps may find they don't want to work with children. Others who work in city agencies may discover public service is for them, Mullgrav said.

"You learn not only what you like to do, but what you don't like to do," she said.

KHQ 06 Local News Story

Video of Spokane Area Youth Summer Program (8/5/09)

http://www.nextgenzone.org/_flash/upload/6-5-09_Q6_at_6_flv.swf

The Olympian

Stimulus helps young people get work in hard times

THE OLYMPIAN | • Published August 06, 2009

Rare is the day that goes by without an announcement of more federal dollars flowing into the state from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The latest count showed $827 million has been infused into the state economy from the federal economic stimulus plan out of the $4 billion that the state has been formally granted so far.

Add in money targeted directly to local governments and to the federal government for cleanup at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and funds committed to date in this state total $5.4 billion.

Reasonable minds can debate the worthiness of projects funded so far. But it would be hard to argue against the $19.9 million received to employ 3,300 young people statewide in a summer youth employment program.

Most of the jobs are going to teens and young adults from low-income families. Typically, these are minimum wage jobs in entry-level positions. Oftentimes, it is the first job the participant has ever had.

The summer of 2009 had to be one of the hardest summers in recent memory for young people with no job experience to find work. They're competing for employment in the service industry and elsewhere with adults trying to scrape by in an economic recession.

Businesses large and small are shedding jobs, not adding jobs, as they try to make ends meet. With the state unemployment rate hovering around 9.3 percent, more jobs are being lost than are being created or saved by economic stimulus money.

So its heartening to know that thousands of young teens have received a taste of what it's like to work and earn an income this summer.

They've been provided an opportunity to start to build a job resume that could help them find their next job. They've gained a modicum of financial independence that is good for their self esteem.

In Thurston County alone, about 80 businesses, nonprofit groups and government agencies have provided jobs for about 190 young workers, ages 14 to 24. Community Youth Service in Thurston County and the Educational Service District 113 in Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties played key roles in connected employers with temporary employees.

If past history is any indicator, some of those seasonal jobs will be extended by the employers after the program ends.

The youth summer employment program is one piece of the economic stimulus package that is easy to like.

Posted: 27 Jul 2009 05:38 AM PDT

FOX 21 Online - Duluth,MN,USA

Federal stimulus money helps Wisconsin DNR fight invasive species

Sun, 07/26/2009 - 1:46pm

By Patty Murray, Wisconsin Public Radio

MADISON (WPR) Wisconsin is using federal stimulus money to put young people to work combatting invasive species.

They're stationed at state parks to instruct boaters on how to contain zebra mussels and fish viruses. The program only costs about $100,000, but it will employ 55 people under the age of 24.

They'll pass out brochures at boat landings and instruct people on how to clean off their boats so to stem the tide of invasive species. The Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development, Roberta Gassman, said it's something the DNR has relied upon volunteers to do up until now.

The jobs were targeted at young disadvantaged young people. They'll be paid above the minimum wage -- at eight dollars an hour. The money for the program is expected to last until June of 2011.

timesfreepress.com
Chattanooga Times Free Press

Tennessee, Georgia: Low-income youth to get job help this summer

Sunday, April 26, 2009

By:
Dave Flessner (Contact)

PDF: ARRA Summer Youth Work

For the first time in 12 years, Uncle Sam will hire low-income teens this summer to help with everything from brush removal at state parks to painting over graffiti on local buildings.

Tennessee and Georgia will get $56 million in the next two years through the federal stimulus package to create up to 20,000 summertime jobs for disadvantaged youths.

Most of those hired for the six-week jobs will be paid the minimum wage of $6.55 per hour and will get training and work experience doing jobs at government and nonprofit agencies.

"What we're trying to do is to add value to a number of area agencies while giving young people a chance to develop their work skills and make a little bit of money," said Gary Rudolph, director of the work force training program for the Career Centers in Southeast Tennessee, which serves nine area counties.

To qualify, workers must be between the ages of 14 and 24 and live in a household with income at or below the poverty level. For a family of four, the poverty level in the Chattanooga area is now $22,500-a-year total household income.

In Southeast Tennessee, individuals must apply by Thursday at local high schools or the Tennessee Career Centers of Southeast Tennessee. With a week left to apply, there were already twice as many applicants as the estimated 700 positions available in the nine-county Southeast Tennessee region, Mr. Rudolph said.

In Northwest Georgia, where the summer youth program will employ about 820, individuals may apply at Northwestern Georgia Technical College or at Endless Opportunities in Whitfield County, starting Friday.

"We have so many layoffs that for a lot of kids both of their parents have lost their jobs and some of those in this program will be making the only money that comes into these homes," said Gwen Dellinger, work force development coordinator for the Workforce Investment Act program in Northwest Georgia.

As part of the program, participants also will receive at least a week of instruction in general work skills and preparation for the individual jobs to be done, officials said.

Linda Johnson, assistant commissioner of Georgia's Department of Labor, said the federal jobs program will help offer training, work experience and income for many youths who would otherwise not have such opportunities this summer.

"Our goal is make this summer job experience turn into a lifetime of understanding for good work habits and helping people to develop a career path as they grow and mature," she said.

In Tennessee, the number of unemployed teens has more than doubled since 2007 to more than 45,000 individuals this year. More than one-third of teenagers in the work force in Tennessee are currently unemployed, according to state employment estimates.

"We feel this program will be a vital role in putting youth to work and ultimately stimulating the economy," said Jim Neeley, Tennessee's commissioner for Labor and Workforce Development.

The six-week program will provide up to $1,500 in summertime income for most of participants in the program.

In Bledsoe County, local youths are expected to work at Fall Creek Falls State Park. In Chattanooga, the city's Front Porch Alliance is helping to identify jobs for local youths.

CNSNews.com

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By Fred Lucas, Staff Writer

President Barack Obama (AP Photo)

(CNSNews.com) - At least 12,000 jobs "created" by President Obama's stimulus package are summer jobs for young people, according to a White House report issued on May 27, 100 days after passage of the $787-billion American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The White House report, "100 Days, 100 Projects," summarizes various projects on infrastructure, renewable energy and "jobs and job training."

"In that time, we've obligated over $100 billion dollars, created more than 150,000 jobs and started important projects in every state and territory of America," 1+%'$(2! +(1+@"12 written by Ed DeSeve, coordinator of recovery implementation at the White House.

Much of the information in the report's "jobs and job training" category concerns summer youth programs.

Meanwhile, Republicans critics have cited A+@%12 +&2")(B%." 1($2%27$23showing that unemployment claims increased by 1.6 million in the first 100 days of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. That's about 16,000 jobs lost per day.

"You want kids in the summer to be off the streets and making a little pocket change, but that kind of job, when it (the stimulus package) was sold, that is not what was contemplated," Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-Ohio) told CNSNews.com.

"It has been reported, even though we're 100 days into it, 6 percent [of the money] is out the door,"

said LaTourette. "Now that I'm back in the state of Ohio, I can tell you, I meet with the contractors and the people who have the ability to put people to work and a lot of the contracts aren't even out."

Earlier this month, an Associated Press analysis of 5,500 transportation projects found that states are planning to spend 50 percent or more per person in areas with the lowest unemployment rather than in cities and towns with the highest unemployment.

The biggest of the youth jobs program is in Cleveland, where 7,000 teens will be employed to work summer jobs through a $6.4 million program funded by stimulus money. About $3 million went to support 2,500 summer teen jobs in Riverside County, Calif., according to the report. Another 200 California teens will get summer jobs as a result of a $465,000 stimulus grant to Yuba County.

More than 1,300 people ages 14-24 in northern Mississippi will have jobs under a youth employment program because of stimulus funds. In Rensselaer County, N.Y., the county will use $275,000 from stimulus money to hire 400 people for the summer youth jobs program, ages 14-24.

A stimulus grant to the Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program will allow 220 teens to be hired for the summer at government agencies, non-profits, small businesses, hospitals and retail stores. About $441,000 in stimulus money going to the Cenralina Workforce Development Board in Salisbury, N.C. will cover the cost of 126 new employees ages 14-24 for the summer.

While the report did not specify the amount of funds or the number of jobs, it said that Elgin Community College in Illinois received stimulus money to create jobs for 16-24 year-olds to work on "green projects." Also, stimulus money went to the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to create temporary jobs for young people ages 19-25.

TIME

Stimulus Sparks a Summer Jobs' Comeback

By **GILBERT CRUZ** Friday, Jun. 19, 2009

Stimulus money is helping fund more than 100,000 summer jobs for young people like Roger Taylor, who is getting paid to dismantle a home in Redding, Calif.

Redding Record Searchlight / ZUMA

Thomas Hollister Singleton wants a car. Specifically, a Dodge Challenger, black. And while it will be several years before Singleton will be able to get behind the wheel of a vehicle — he's only 14 years old — he is hoping to start saving up with the money he makes this summer working in his first job: helping to clean and maintain classrooms at his school in Strayhorn, Miss. And what would he be doing otherwise? "Honestly, I'd probably just be hanging out, maybe at the beach," he says.

It's nothing new, wanting to snag a summer job, save up those pennies and get a new bike, a new Xbox 360, a new car (price tag: 1,500,000 pennies). But for many low-income teens in the U.S., like those in Tate County, where Singleton lives, jobs have been in scarce supply since the Federal Government gutted its summer-jobs program about a decade ago. But the Obama Administration is changing all that, having directed $1.2 billion to pay for summer jobs for youths. Every state is now flush with stimulus dollars — ranging from about $3 million (in

Wyoming, South Dakota and other low-population states) to $186 million (California) — to fund local job programs. Most states have started hiring, and many kids are already in their first weeks of work. The White House estimates that the stimulus money will create 125,000 jobs for low-income youths, though outside experts put the number at up to four times that. **(See the 10 perfect jobs for the recession — and after.)**

The money couldn't come at a better time. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment for 16-to-19-year-olds is nearly 23%; that's more than double the 9.2% national unemployment rate and the highest it's been since 1992. Why the steep rise? For starters, there's this little thing called the recession. But concern about youth employment also pretty much fell off the federal radar in recent years. Back when President Lyndon Johnson launched the War on Poverty in 1965, the Federal Government started funding summer-jobs programs for low-income youth. These efforts included the Neighborhood Youth Corps, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act and the Job Training Partnership Act. In 1999, however, federal commitment to low-income-youth employment was swallowed up by the Workforce Investment Act, which made summer jobs one of 10 priorities for certain federal dollars, as opposed to the *only* priority. Since then, many communities have seen opportunities dry up, especially for low-skill, low-income teens. **(Read "Government Jobs Looking Better in the Downturn.")**

"In rural America, there's not many private companies that are going to hire teenagers," says Bill Renick of the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Area. "You just don't have businesses on every corner in small-town Mississippi. I've got applications from kids from Sarah — a town which has maybe 200 people — and summer-job opportunities just don't normally come around for them." As a result, Renick says more than 10,000 applications were submitted for what will likely turn out to be about 1,600 jobs.

Urban America is hard-pressed as well, says Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. "For the last three years, we've scraped and scrounged just to pool together different pots of money to get children hired during the summer," says Jackson, speaking of a joint city-county effort to create summer jobs. "We've been able to do anywhere from 1,200 to 1,500 jobs a summer. But these stimulus dollars give us about 4,500 additional jobs to play with." **(Read "A Biden Show-and-Tell: How the Stimulus Has Created Jobs.")**

So what exactly will these 14-to-24-year-olds be doing over the next six to 10 weeks? "Everything," says Andrew Sum of Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies.

"You'll have kids in offices, in day-care centers; some kids will be cleaning streets and parks, mowing lawns and cleaning highways." Some states will couple job time with classroom time, while others, like Indiana, plan to use their stimulus funds for green projects, such as trail maintenance and park restoration.

And while youth unemployment is high, more telling to Sum are youth employment numbers, which show that less than 1 out of every 3 teens currently has a job, the lowest number since 1948. This statistic helps explain why Sum thinks the program isn't going far enough. Sure, $1.2 billion and hundreds of thousands of jobs sound huge, but it will bring teen unemployment down only a few percentage points — and only for a few months at that. If the point of a summer-jobs program is partly to train the uninitiated in the ways of the working world and partly to simply get them into the employment stream, then one can't be satisfied with just a three-month stint, he says. "Summer jobs only really pay off if we can tie them to more year-round work," says Sum. "To just have a one-summer program would be, in my mind, a massive misuse of the money. We should fund jobs this summer and next summer and have part-time work in the winter. All of it."

Mariah Hilgart is happy, however, just to have a job right now. Although she has spent some time working with her mother at a tanning salon, the 15-year-old in Park Falls, Wis., was able to secure her first "real job" through a workforce development program in the northwestern part of the state. At $7.25 an hour, 20 hours a week, Hilgart hopes that by working at the local chamber of commerce she can — surprise — save enough money for a car. "I like the new Pontiac G6s. They're amazing," she says. Apparently Hilgart has not heard that Pontiac is going out of business. Lesson to the feds: you can help kids earn some cash, but you can't expect them all to spend it wisely.

Citizen-Times.com

Summer jobs, a splendid stimulus

MARC H. MORIAL • AUGUST 8, 2009 12:15 AM

In recent years, for millions of urban young people the end of the school year has meant the beginning of the fruitless search for summer jobs. And, unfortunately, in many of our cities, it has also meant misdirected idleness and a rise in youth-related crime and violence. However, this year may be different. The Obama administration's infusion of $1.2 billion in stimulus funds for youth summer jobs promises to give hundreds of thousands of young people meaningful work experience, and keep many of them off the streets and out of trouble during the long, hot summer.

This issue is especially critical in Black America. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while overall teen unemployment has now climbed to 22 percent, Black teen unemployment stands at 39 percent – almost double the national rate. The percentage of unemployed Black teen jumped by more than 10 percent between April 2008 and April 2009. We know that summer jobs for youth not only funnel needed dollars into the pockets of teens and the budgets of their families, they also provide a crucial pathway to productive adulthood for the next generation.

As the former Mayor of New Orleans I have consistently fought to expand summer job programs for young people and I have seen the positive impact first hand. Not only do local economies benefit greatly from teens spending their disposable incomes, but also the work experience gives young workers an alternative to hanging out on street corners during the summer months. If we want urban kids to value work, we have to give them work. It just makes sense -- the more we give kids to do the better they will feel about themselves and the less trouble they will get into.

And there is no shortage of work to be done. From office work to day care to cleaning parks and highways, teens can play a crucial role in providing workers for many of the infrastructure and "green" jobs that are essential to the nation's economic recovery. And because so many of them are computer savvy, they bring added value to the workplace and should be exposed to a wide variety of jobs beyond retail and fast food positions.

Summer youth programs receiving stimulus funds must give first priority to teens and young adults who come from low-income backgrounds, are high school dropouts, have a disability or have no work experience or training. This is especially important at a time when the national unemployment rate is 9.4 percent, Black unemployment is 15 percent and adults are now competing for many of the jobs traditionally held by young people.

An investment in teen summer jobs is an investment in America's future. I applaud the Obama administration for leading this comeback. I encourage employers to participate and I urge teens to take advantage of the opportunity to learn basic work skills that will lead to bigger paychecks and better jobs in the future.

Marc H. Morial is president and CEO of The National Urban League. Mr. Morial succeeds Hugh B. Price as the League's eighth Chief Executive. Mr. Morial served two distinguished four-year terms as Mayor of New Orleans from 1994-2002. During that time, he also served as president of the United States Conference of Mayors in 2001 and 2002. This column was distributed by MinutemanMedia.org.